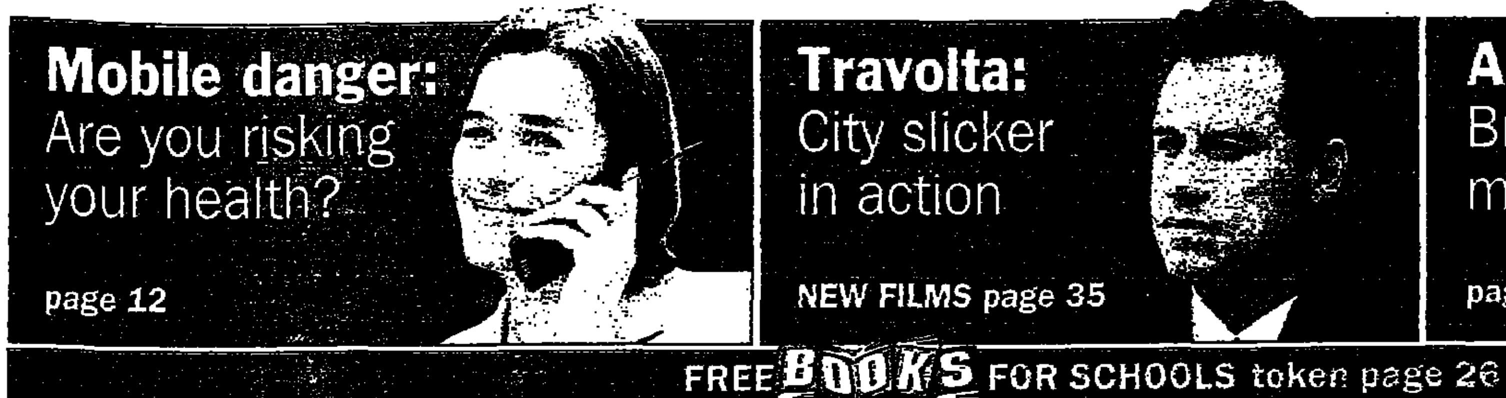
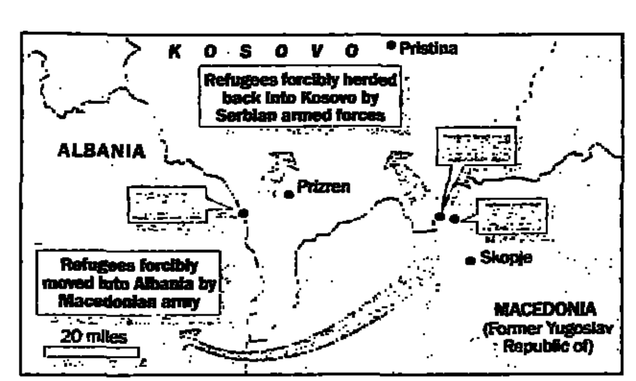
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30p EVERY WEEKDAY

'The Macedonians worked even faster than the Serbs to get these people out of their country'



Refugees moved at dead of night



A doll, family albums, passports: all went under the bulldozer at Blace, reports Daniel McGrory

THE United Nations led the condemnation yesterday of a midnight raid by Macedonian troops to evict forcibly 30,000 refugees from their makeshift camp on the border.

And there was further alarm as the Serbs suddenly closed their borders at Blace and Jazince, ordering thousands of ethnic Albanians back to their homes in Kosovo. Nato officers fear they will now be used as human shields against allied attacks.

At Blace, aid workers described how Macedonian soldiers spread through the camp tearing down tents and dragging families on to buses that were then driven across the neighbouring border.

In the frightened mêlée, parents were separated from children and most were prevented from bringing even the few possessions they salvaged when they fled Kosovo.

The UNHCR called this evacuation brutal and a fundamental violation of human rights. "You do not move people at dead of night without telling anyone where they are going and split up families in the haste to tip them out of your country," an official said.

As dawn rose over what had suddenly become a ghost camp there was ample and poignant evidence of how ruthlessly these thousands of Kosovo Albanians were moved. A child's doll lay trampled in the mud. Passports and documents were strewn among a tangle of clothes and in the mud were obviously treasured keepsakes such as a family photo album and letters. Jars of baby food sat open on tables made from cardboard boxes. Meals were half-eaten, a radio was still playing and a leather jacket hung from a tree.

A worker with the Islamic charity El Hilal said: "The soldiers just stormed the camp. Children were screaming. Some refugees tried to escape and troops fired over the heads and hauled them back to the buses, beating them with their rifles. We were not allowed to help them."

He said that Serb troops hiding in an abandoned frontier village became embroiled and grabbed some of the refugees back on to their side of a border marked by the railway line that was used 11 days ago to expel these refugees.

The eviction was over within seven hours. Christopher Thomas of the American Red Cross said: "The Macedonian soldiers worked even faster than the Serbs to get these people out of their country."

But senior Macedonian Government officials accused Nato countries of hypocrisy, saying: "You complained when we didn't move the refugees quickly enough and now you criticise us when we do empty that camp."

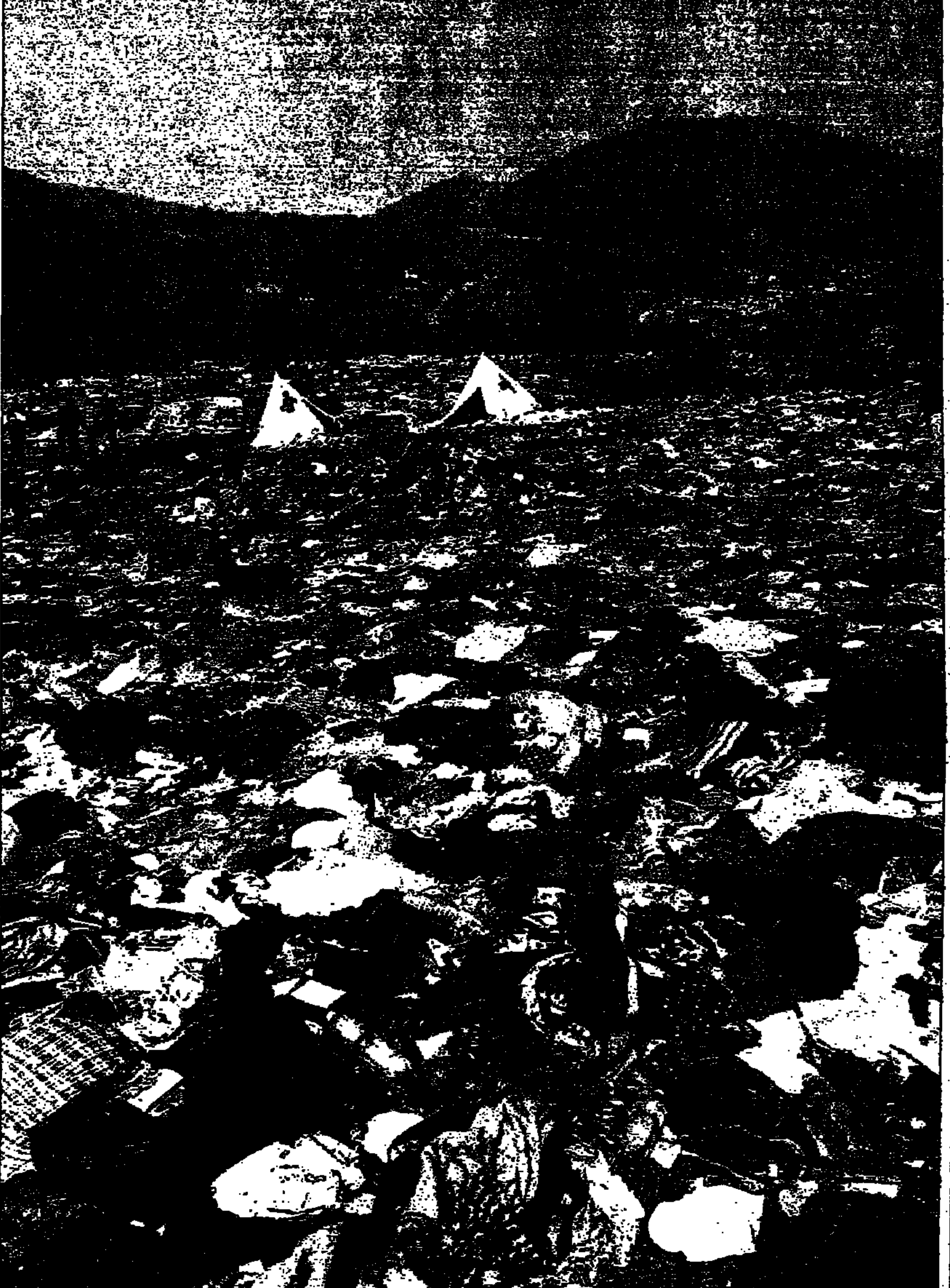
The Macedonian President, Kiro Gligorov, was also unrepentant, saying: "This was the right thing to do. Albania is their native land, and it should accept the refugees and the international community should help to get them there."

Standing on the edge of the deserted camp yesterday, Major-General John Drewienkiewicz, acting head of the Org-

Continued on page 7, col 3

Balkans war, pages 4-9
David Hart, page 22
Leading article and Letters, page 23

CARLO FERRARO/EPA



Deserted village: belongings salvaged by refugees as they fled Kosovo lie abandoned after their second eviction from Blace

Mercy dash to save US prisoners

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE three American soldiers captured by Serb forces and being held as PoWs could be freed today after a surprise intercession by a veteran Cypriot politician. Spyros Kyprianou, the parliamentary president, expects to fly to Belgrade this morning after declaring that he was confident he could secure their release.

He has been in close contact with the Serbian leadership and, if successful, hopes to return with them to Cyprus.

"I believe, I hope my mission will succeed," he as he left for Athens where Greece has provided a plane for Belgrade.

His original schedule called for him to fly Belgrade last night but the Greek Government was told by Washington that it was impossible for any commercial planes to enter Yugoslavian airspace because of Nato's bombardment.

The gesture by the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milcsevic, came a day after Nato brushed aside his offer of a ceasefire for the Orthodox Easter this weekend. Freeing the Americans would remove the huge public oincry in the United States.

The three, which Nato says were non-combat troops, were seized near the border between Macedonia and Kosovo. Belgrade threatened to put them on trial as spies but later said it would free them when the bombing ended.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR MONEY

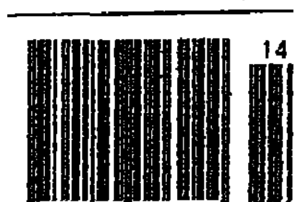
£5 million was donated in the first 24 hours of an appeal by 12 British aid charities who have united under the auspices of the Disasters Emergency Committee to help the Kosovan refugees. Other charities have also received thousands of pounds. All are seeking money rather than goods.

Disasters Emergency Committee:
Phone lines: 0870 6060900 and 0990 222233.
Cheques: Kosovo Crisis Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC4A 9AA.

Refaid:
Phone line: 01732 520111.
Cheques: RefAid-Kosovo Appeal, UK for UNHCR, 21st floor, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London SW1 4QP.

Action Against Hunger:
Phone line: 0171-242 5665
Postal address: Action Against Hunger UK, 1 Catton Street, London WC1R 4AB.
Donations may also be made at banks and post offices.

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Government U-turn on Pill warning

BY HELEN RUMBELOW

THE Government has made a U-turn on its advice on contraceptive pills, four years after health warnings caused panic and led to an estimated 30,000 abortions.

Jeremy Metters, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday the abortions were "regretted". The Government released new guidelines reversing the 1995 safety alert when it warned women and GPs that the leading "third generation" brand of pills were so risky they should not be taken unless absolutely necessary.

The alarm affected about *two million women, half of all* British women taking oral contraceptives. Twelve per cent immediately stopped taking the Pill and abortions, which had been on the decline, rose by 9 per cent that year and are continuing to rise.

Medical experts and manufacturers blamed the Government for the sensational health scare which was based on evidence that had yet to be published. The research had found that women taking third generation pills, which contain the progestogens called desogestel or gestodene, were about twice as likely as those on other pills to have blood clots in their legs, but the risk was still very small — 25 women in 100,000.

Those statistics were called into doubt and after appeals from the drug manufacturers the Committee of Safety on Medicines (CSM) reconsidered. Dr Metters said that the risks remained the same as in 1995 but they were very small *and as long as women were in*formed of them they could be prescribed the third generation pills as their first choice.

"Of course I regret unnecessary abortions. But the CSM gave the advice they thought was right at the time. It was important that women should be told exactly what the risks were. If we had sat on the data there would have been a national outcry."



"It's like spot-the-ball but harder"

Police tackle runaways

Twelve players from Ivory Coast's *under-19* rugby team have gone on the run apparently in the hope of staying in Britain. Police in South Wales say they are hopeful of finding them because they have only a smattering of English, and are believed to be wearing their navy blue team tracksuits.

Man of 61 admits Mardi bombings

BY RICHARD DUCE AND ADAM FRESCO

A MAN aged 61 admitted yesterday that he was the Mardi Gra bomber who waged a 3½-year campaign across London and the Home Counties.

Edgar Pearce, a former advertising employee from Chiswick, West London, tried to extort millions of pounds from Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's as he planted 36 devices, the Old Bailey was told.

The bombs contained pins and ball bearings. By the time his campaign was brought to an end, six people were injured and only luck stopped anyone from being killed. The *cost to Sainsbury's is estimat*ed at £640,000 in lost trade. Barclays spent £140,000 on extra security.

The bombs became more sophisticated as Pearce's campaign developed, and police regarded him to be as dangerous as the IRA. The devices were first delivered to bank branches from December 1994 and later left outside Sainsbury's supermarkets. Pearce's demands were open-ended with no time limit set on how long the blackmail would continue. He hoped to use cashpoint machines to receive up to £10,000 each day. In the end, he had withdrawn £700 when he was trapped. He will be sentenced in a few days.

Detective Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Rees, from the Organised Crime Group, said: "This was a callous, calculating individual who was wholly indifferent to the possibility that the devices might cause death or serious injuries."

Pearce admitted 20 charges, *involving blackmail attempts*, the possession of explosives and wounding. Charges against his brother Ronald, 67, were dropped. Ronald admitted possessing a stun gun but the prosecution accepted he played no part in the extortion. He was sentenced to 12 months but released because of time he has spent in prison.

Full story, pages 2 & 3



The calling card Pearce left on his first six bombs

- Only he knew store cards were cash cards
- He told police to give them away in magazine
- He knew the Pin codes

Cash machine ploy gave police the upper hand

EDGAR PEARCE, the Mardi Gra bomber, was defeated by a high-technology police operation involving the kind of manpower formerly reserved for dealing with the IRA.

Pearce, 61, believed he had developed a foolproof plan to extort money from Barclays Bank, and then the Sainsbury's supermarket chain, after making their branches the target of a succession of home-made bomb attacks. He hit upon the idea of extorting money using the national network of automatic cash dispensers.

Pearce insisted that promotional plastic cards be placed inside a national magazine. Only he knew that the cards could be used in a cashpoint machine, and the personal identification number.

On December 27, 1997, police placed a brief entry in the personal column of *The Daily Telegraph* reading: "M. Work will be completed and ready for London circulation on Thursday 26th March 1998. This is the earliest possible date. Hope it meets your schedule. G."

It was the breakthrough the police had been waiting for. They set up electronic monitoring of hundreds of cash machines across London in the hope that the bomber would pay one of them a visit. The

HOW THE BOMBER WAS CAUGHT

Stewart Tendler, Richard Duce and Adam Fresco on the problems faced by investigators

bombings, however, did not stop and in January and February there were further attacks on Sainsbury's stores in West and South London.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch and a veteran of IRA bombing inquiries, later admitted he was so worried that the bomber would eventually kill someone that he would lie awake in a cold sweat.

As the cat and mouse game with Pearce continued, police began to set in train the plan, Operation Heath, that would lead to his capture and conviction at the Old Bailey.

Sainsbury's had improved its closed-circuit television cameras and increased uniformed and undercover patrols. However, Pearce had always eluded them by making sure that his face was never captured on camera.

Surveillance was so intense that police broke a drugs smuggling operation when they saw two men unloading boxes from a van into a a car in Sainsbury's car park at Chiswick. The car was stopped and found to be carrying £1 million of cannabis resin. Two men, one of them a retired RAF officer, were subsequently jailed.

On March 17, another bomb exploded in Eltham, southeast London, soon after two mothers had walked past pushing their babies in prams. Pearce was captured on camera, only for the second time in the three-year bombing campaign, but again his face could not be seen.

On April 17, police, with the co-operation of Sainsbury's, set their trap with a further announcement in *The Daily Telegraph*, stating simply: "Everything on schedule."

Sainsbury's printed 50,000 special reward cards that were inserted into a promotion in the southeast edition of *Exchange & Mart*. They paid £20,000 into an account from which thousands could be be withdrawn each day. At the same time the police electronically linked hundreds of cash machines to a special centre at Scotland Yard, codenamed Central 500, from which many of the big anti-IRA operations were normally run. Closed-circuit television cameras were also rigged up.

Under Operation Heath, the Yard planned to deploy more than 400 officers to keep watch across West and South London each day. Officers were brought in from the specialist squads and help was sought in every part of the capital.

As soon as a card was used, Central 500 would get the address and alert the nearest team. Every officer was shown the closed-circuit television film of Pearce planting the bomb so that they knew his approximate build and height.

The cards could be used for seven days only. For four days nothing happened, and the Operation Heath team began to despair. Then, on day five, April 28, there were two withdrawals. Police rushed to the addresses in West London, but he had gone.

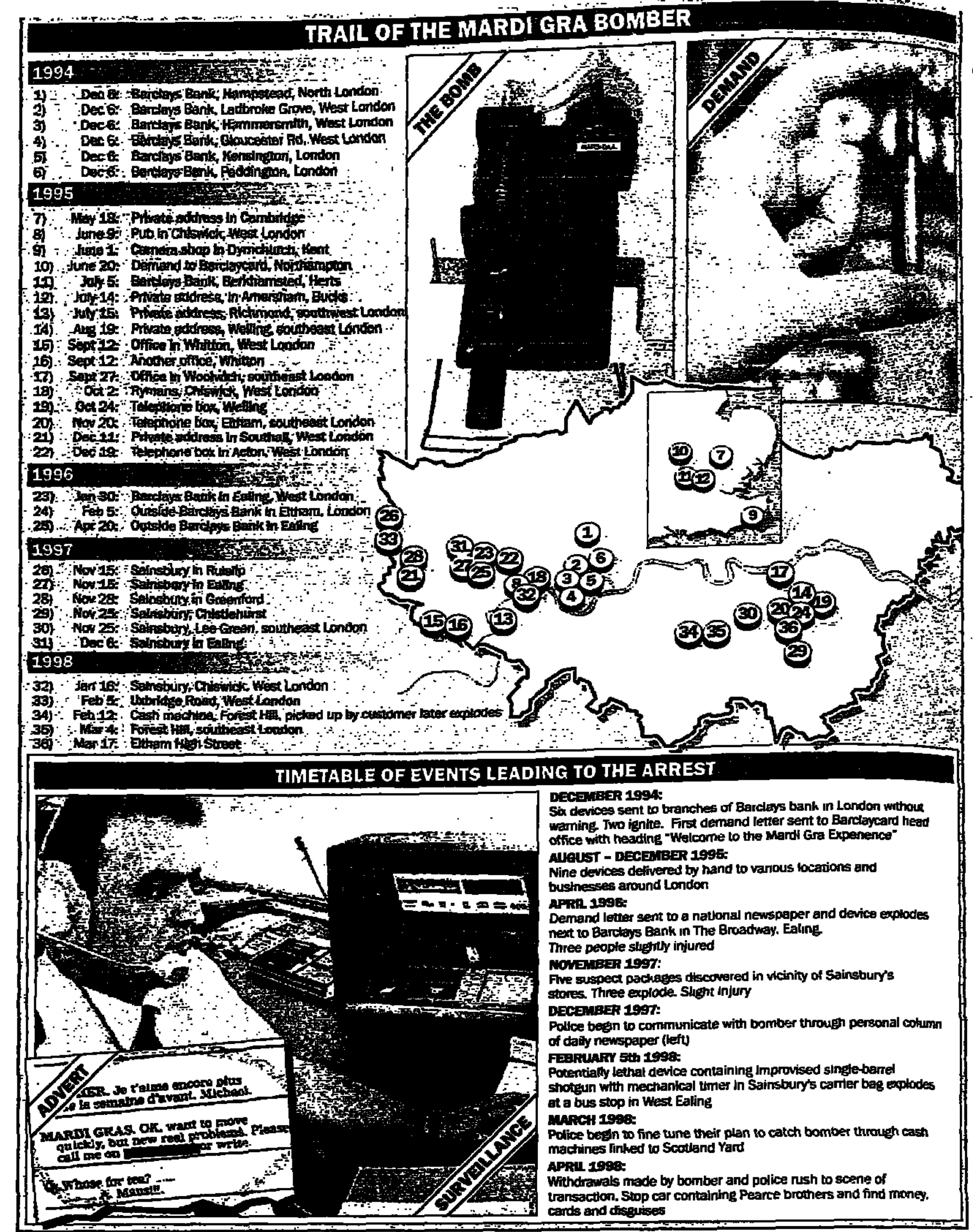
A few hours later the alarm in the control room went off again. Cash was being withdrawn from a machine at Whitton, near Twickenham, an area targeted twice by the bomber in 1995.

Officers seconded from National Crime Squad surveillance teams moved in and halted a car pulling away. Inside were the Pearce brothers, wearing false beards, dark glasses and hats. Ronald was also wearing a wig. The brothers were carrying £700 they had just withdrawn; Edgar Pearce had ten of the Sainsbury's cards.

Inside his home in Chiswick, police found his bomb factory and a loaded revolver with a silencer. Two bombs were primed and ready to be used: police believe he was planning to move on to a more sophisticated bombing phase.

Officers also found a crossbow inside a holed Sainsbury's bag. The trigger was hooked up to a length of fishing line. With it Pearce could have fired the bolt unobserved into a crowd. There were lengths of copper piping for bomb-making, 272 12-gauge shotgun cartridges and a further quantity of 410 cartridges to be used in a specially adapted revolver.

After the Mardi Gra bomber's capture, Mr Grieve said: "He had a really good plan, but we had a better one."





At the moment of his arrest in southwest London, police lift the Mardi Gra bomber's wig before he is led away

Pensioner who picked up bomb in bag 'died of shock'

THE VICTIMS

THE Mardi Gra campaign of extortion terrorised and injured six people. A pensioner who mistakenly picked up a Sainsbury's bag containing one of the devices was so shocked, even though it did not go off, that her family claim it eventually killed her.

Curtis Dennis, a promising athlete, was injured in his thigh and despite successful surgery has been unable to resume his athletic career.

Relatives of Mrs Joan Kane, 74, a widow, said that she was haunted by the thought that she had carried the explosive device on two buses on her way home.

She would sit all day alone in her lounge, staring at the television, even though it was switched off, according to her daughter. Mo March said that her mother suffered flashbacks, sank into a decline and finally died.

Mrs Kane had carried the bag home to Hanwell, West London, from a trip to her local Sainsbury's in December 1997. It is thought she picked up the bag when she was gathering up her shopping. She only realised what she had when she was unpacking. Her next-door neighbour came in, recognised the device, and called police. Mrs March, 51, said: "It was just sheer shock. She never ever came to terms with it. She tried to go back to West Ealing a couple of times and had to be brought back. She had always battled through previous health troubles — always. But on that day, her fighting spirit was taken away."

Less than three months after taking the bomb home Mrs Kane died of a virulent form of leukaemia. "The general opinion is that it triggered the illness," said Mrs March, a plant manager at a garden centre.

Less than half of the devices that were dumped, posted or delivered failed to go off. On one occasion an explosive device was planted at a busy bus stop where people were walking by. It went off when the immediate area was, unusually, clear of people.

Dr Chris Side almost lost an eye to a piece of shrapnel when he opened an explosive device at his home in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, in July 1995.

The worst injury was suffered by Curtis Dennis when a device exploded near a Sainsbury's in Forest Hill, southeast London. His thigh was punctured by shrapnel and the wounds required surgery and skin grafts. Although he was left with no permanent injury he has not resumed his athletic career.

In April 1996, a double-barrelled shotgun device hidden in flower beds outside a bank in Ealing, West London, exploded hitting Tang Di, a customer, with pellets. He was not seriously hurt.

Twisted mind of invisible man

THE BOMBER

Reports by Stewart Tendler, Richard Duce and Adam Fresco

AS THE Mardi Gra bomber spread fear and alarm across London during his three-year terror campaign detectives were advised to look for a single man or woman, no more than 40 years old, who could even be a renegade police officer.

Sitting in his West London terraced house with its neatly tended garden, 61-year-old unemployed Edgar Eugene Pearce probably allowed himself a smug smile of satisfaction as he realised police were no nearer to ending his home-made bombing exploits.

The son of a former East End tailor far from fitted the criminal profile offered by experts but with the benefit of hindsight there were alarming signs of a twisted mind at work. The few people who knew Pearce regarded him as an obsessive perfectionist who had slipped into eccentic behaviour which included getting up at 6am every day to cook himself a roast meal for breakfast. At his three-storey council house in a Chiswick cul-de-sac Pearce had a well equipped workshop where he would while away the time by working on clocks and electronic gadgetry. It was here that he was eventually to piece together the simple bombs he made from a video box, spring and shotgun cartridge.

> ‘He was weird. He wouldn't speak to anyone at all’

Edgar Pearce and his brother Ronald, 67, grew up in the East End of London where they went to local schools. Edgar decided on a career in advertising and, after attending college, worked for several London firms before moving to South Africa in 1971.

He stayed there for the next five years and, along the way, aquired a working knowledge of firearms. By the time he returned to Britain he had married his wife Maureen and the pair set up a restaurant business in Hayling Island, near Portsmouth, known as Jeanne's Cuisine.

The business seems to have been a success although Pearce's wife fell ill around the time of dealings with Barclays Bank which left him with his grudge against the bank. When Pearce was deciding on his first target for an extortion plan it was Barclays that came to mind.

The couple sold up in 1982 and moved to Chiswick with their daughter Nicola before they eventually separated in 1987, although they remained on close terms.

Pearce would carry out DIY work on his former wife's home in Eltham, South-East London.

Pearce replaced his family by taking in lodgers at the house and neighbours remember him as an elusive outsider. He was distincly unpopular with the local children, threatening them and telling them that he would poison their dogs, when he saw them playing in the street close to his front garden and his precious plants. There was a closed-circuit camera over the front door — he told children playing nearby it was to ensure that they did not go near his flowerbeds.

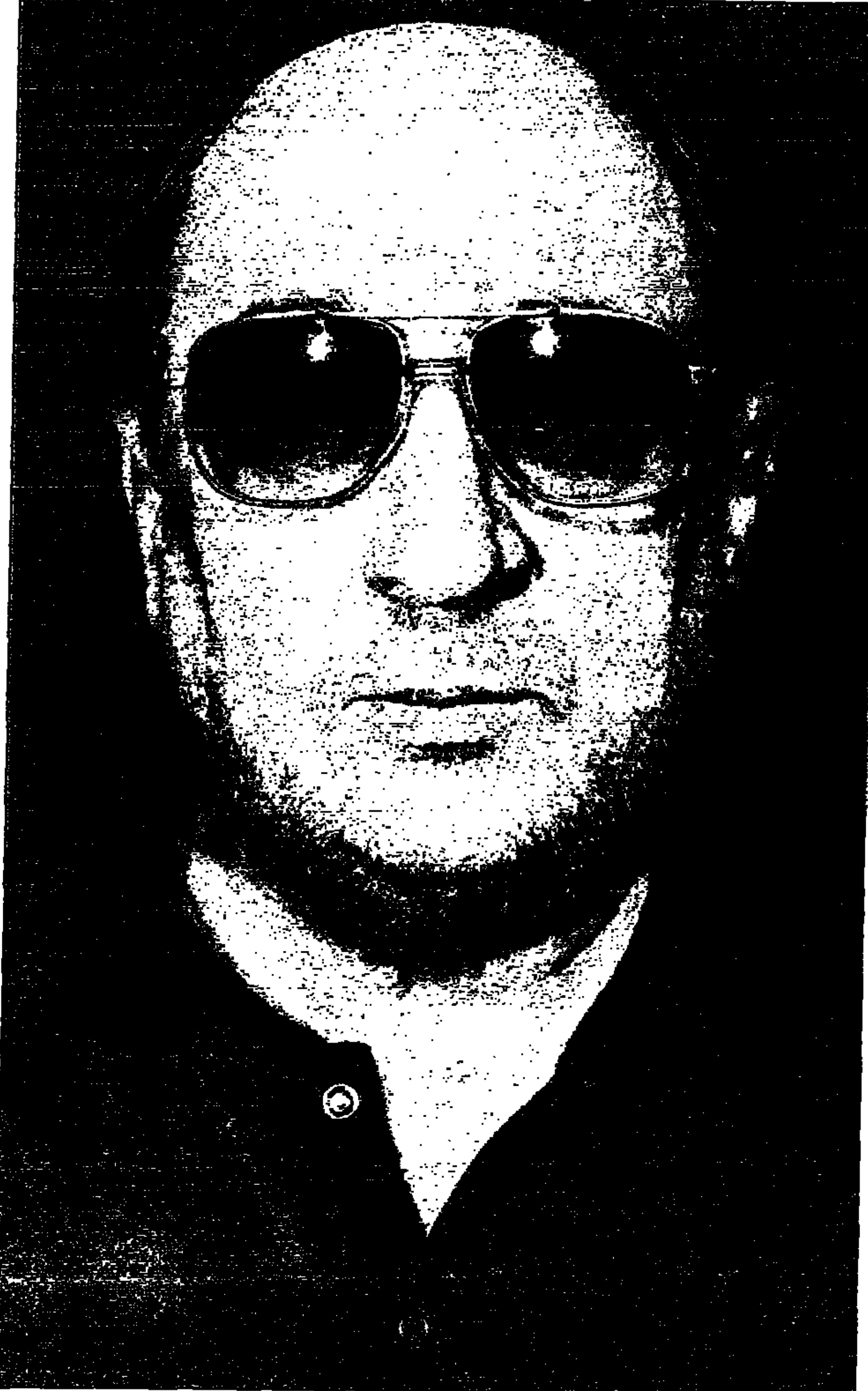
He spent most of his time with his brother Ronald, a former Savile Row tailor, who lived less than a mile away in West London.

They drank at the Crown and Anchor public house on Chiswick High Road, only a few doors from the home Ronald Pearce shared with partner Sonia Bickham.

In June 1995, after being barred from the pub, apparently for rowdy behaviour, Edgar Pearce sent one of his devices to Andy Bennett, the landlord —he was the eighth target. Mr Bennett said later: "I thought someone had a vendetta against me but I racked my brains and couldn't think why."

Pearce was known to be intelligent and knowledgeable about current affairs but his neighbour Breda Williams said that he would ignore everyone else in the street. "He was weird. He wouldn't speak to anyone at all." Other neighbours thought of him as the "invisible man" because he was so rarely seen in the street.

At night, Pearce, who was a heavy drinker, would sit by the side of his garden pond reading until the small hours. Professor David Canter, director of the centre of investigative psychology at Liverpool University, said that Edgar Pearce was on a "search for some sort of feelings of achievement and self-worth rather than escape".



Edgar Pearce: an obsessive perfectionist who had slipped into eccentic behaviour

Ronald Pearce tries to shield his face after being freed at the Old Bailey yesterday

Girlfriend consoles ex-Savile Row tailor

THE BROTHER

THE brother of the Mardi Gra bomber was "drawn into something he knew nothing about", his girlfriend said as he was freed from prison.

Ronald Pearce, a former Savile Row tailor, was sentenced to a year in jail for possessing the stun gun that was found when he was arrested with his brother Edgar as he withdrew money from cash machines. He was freed yesterday because of the time he has spent in jail awaiting trial.

Ronald Pearce, bespectacled and wearing a grey sweatshirt, celebrated his freedom with Sonia Bickham at a restaurant in Chiswick, West London, with a cup of hot chocolate and a salad.

The couple sat holding hands as they chatted, catching up on lost time. Miss Bickham, who has known Ronald for 35 years, denied that the brothers were as close as was believed. The shop assistant, who has stood by her man throughout, said: "They have not really been close at all. They have never been close, but they are brothers.

"Ronald was drawn into something he knew nothing about." Miss Bickham added that she was "elated" by the news that her boyfriend had walked free from court. "Nobody knew what was going to happen. I spoke to him last night and he said, 'Cross your fingers I'll be home.'

"His solicitor phoned me this morning with the good news. The last year has been a living nightmare but I always thought it would come to a good end." Miss Bickham said that they would be celebrating his release in private, and that they had no plans to marry. "He wants to get back to reality. He'll get through this. I don't know if he'll forgive it. He does feel bitter."

She described Ronald as "artistic in every way", adding: "He's a master of whatever he does."

A few hours earlier Ronald Pearce had listened intently in court as the Recorder of London told him: "You have not offered any explanation for your possession of this weapon. But the prosecution cannot say that you intended to use it in any way in the campaign conducted by your brother."

Pearce left court yesterday afternoon refusing to speak to waiting reporters.

Daytime television gave inspiration for blackmail and bombs

THE PLOT

A DAYTIME television repeat captured the imagination of Edgar Pearce. The programme focused on Rodney Witchelo, a former detective who tried to extort almost £4 million from firms after he contaminated baby food.

Witchelo was jailed for 17 years. Pearce, jobless and with time on his hands after a car accident which he says rendered him incapable of working, was riveted by the programme and believed he could go one better and evade capture. His first job was to establish a target and he hit on Barclays Bank, remembering a ten-year-old disagreement which he blamed for his wife falling ill when they ran a business together.

Then came the technological know-how on bomb building, which he pieced together from a television programme depicting spring-loaded cartridge devices. Over three years, the devices became more and more sophisticated as he grew in confidence.

Aware of the dangers of buying suspicious components close to home, he toured car boot sales. During trips to France, he stocked up on shotgun cartridges which he brought back in cases of wine.

He always wore gloves when carrying a bomb to its intended site and always wore the same jacket, which he never wore at home. When he made Sainsbury's his target, Pearce often placed devices inside the store's branded bags, cutting out serial numbers which linked bags to stores.

Pearce spoke French and decided to call himself the Mardi Gra bomber with his campaign starting on a Tuesday. He deliberately left the "S" from the end so that police would know that the bombs were his work. His first six bombs were sent to branches of Barclays which had been picked at random from Yellow Pages. He labelled them with a cutting from a home entertainment magazine which read: "Welcome to the Mardi Gra Experience."

Pearce switched from targeting Barclays when the bank's chairman expressed concern about the bomber and Pearce believed that he would use the attacks as an excuse to close branches. He targeted Sainsbury's because he thought that it might be vulnerable to extortion as it fell behind Tesco in the supermarket war.

He sent secretly snatched pictures of Sainsbury shoppers to the *Daily Mail*, hoping to generate publicity for his cause and to pressurise the supermarket to pay up. When the newspaper did not publish the photographs, he decided to use more dangerous devices to get publicity. Hearing that the IRA was using gas cylinders to achieve bigger explosions, he incorporated a wide range of devices in his campaign. These included a timed device which would fire shrapnel or cartridges from a length of tubing in a black bin liner.

It was only when he was caught on a police video camera in March 1998 in Eltham that officers knew for certain that they were hunting for a man. Black and white pictures showed him walk across the road, dump a black sack containing a shotgun device and walk off without looking round once.

A DEGREE IN TERROR

EDGAR PEARCE had studied and learnt from the crimes of Theodore Kaczynski, the American known as the *Unabomber*.

Pearce shared the American terrorist's careful preparation and planning, his ability to avoid detection for long periods, and an obsessive joy in outfoxing his pursuers.

Kaczynski, who was a professor at the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s, eluded American investigators for 18 years while carrying out a string of terrorist attacks. By the time he was jailed for life in May last year, he had killed three people and injured 28 with home-made bombs containing razor blades and nails.

His motives were never clear. Kaczynski had sent newspapers a rambling 62-page manuscript in which he demanded a return to "wild nature" and railed against technology, the US Government, and major corporations, and was fêted in some quarters as a radical environmentalist.

Kaczynski, then 55, was last year sentenced to three life terms for his terrorist crimes, and to another 30 years for killing three men and maiming two others.

Lethal devices made in garden

THE ARSENAL

By Adam Fresco and Richard Duce

THE potentially lethal bombs designed by Edgar Pearce in the garden workshop of his council house home became increasingly sophisticated as his terror campaign developed.

His first simple but effective device was built around an empty video box. Inside there was a shotgun bridge and a simple doorbolt which acted as the firing mechanism. When the box was opened, a spring-loaded device shot the bolt into the 12 bore cartridge. One of the more elaborate devices involved a butane gas cylinder connected to an electric circuit, timer and gas lighter which was then placed inside a plastic bin liner. It was planted on February 1996 outside Barclays bank in Eltham High Street and Pearce partially opened the gas valve, allowing the plastic bag to inflate. The timer set off the lighter which he had planned to ignite the escaping gas. Police believe the device, which was spotted in time by a refuse collector, would have created a lethal fireball.



A gun and bullets recovered from Pearce's home

Another device adopted by Pearce was a "shotgun bomb" which involved placing a length of copper piping on a concrete base which, with the use of a timing device, would fire a cartridge. Other adaptations of the shotgun bomb involved the tubing being packed with panel pins or ball bearings.

Pearce had converted his greenhouse into a workshop for his bombmaking activities. When police finally raided the property they found six gas cylinders and a dozen 12 volt batteries, further devices and two crossbows.

BALKANS WAR: AIR CAMPAIGN

Airborne cameras stalk death columns

Bombers queue in the air ready to act on instant information from sophisticated surveillance, reports Michael Evans, Defence Editor

HOW THE SPIES IN THE SKY HUNT DOWN SERB ARMOUR

1. Satellite and U2 spy planes look for signs of ground troop activity: information is then passed to patrolling JSTARS aircraft

2. Using information from the spy planes and satellites, JSTARs can detect and track Yugoslav armour on the move in Kosovo. Their sideways-looking radar has a range of more than 150miles. They can demand more detailed images from Predator drones

3. Predator drone can peek at the 'enemy', providing close-up pictures that are relaid via satellite to ground stations and to the JSTARs. Drone can stay on station for 24 hours sending back detailed pictures from up to 25,000ft

4. The information built up by satellites, U2s, JSTARs and drones is passed to Hercules aircraft specially converted into airborne battlefield command and control centres. These help mastermind Nato's tank-killing operation in Kosovo

5. Hercules command aircraft help to control activities of Nato aircraft, such as RAF Harrier GR7s with cluster bombs and American A10 tank-busting Warthogs, which mount a standing patrol in the skies near Kosovo ready to pounce on Serbian armour

YUGOSLAV troops and paramilitaries engaged in "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo are being monitored by an array of Western surveillance technology in the sky.

When they dare to venture into the open, it is just a question of time before Nato bombers arrive armed with anti-personnel cluster bombs or anti-tank projectiles to attack. President Milosevic's men are facing a period of high risk.

At this stage in the air campaign, Nato's advanced technology should change the odds. Yugoslav forces must act discreetly to hide from the airborne cameras and reconnaissance systems — the easiest way to outsmart the smartest of high-tech equipment.

The organisation has in place a network of surveillance systems linked to ground stations or to airborne command aircraft which can provide immediate information to waiting bombers about the location of Yugoslav armoured columns on the move.

With the emphasis turning increasingly to attacks on ground forces, the urgent need is for instant-response aircraft missions. If bombers wait on Italian airbase runways for information to be data-linked back to ground stations, then analysed, it could still be two hours before they are over targets. This is why, according to Paul Beaver of Jane's Information Group, Nato is expected to operate a "cab rank" approach, with aircraft queuing in air space, ready to react the moment armoured columns make an appearance — a strategy used in the Gulf War.

To facilitate the instant response, the Americans have "airborne battlefield and control centre" Hercules aircraft, called EC130E (ABCCC), which have extensive communications antennae. Just as the Awacs provide air-battle management for all Nato aircraft operating over Yugoslavia, the modified Hercules supervise tank-killing operations.

Two US airborne surveillance systems and a German unmanned air vehicle (drone), as well as a range of reconnaissance aircraft, are operating all hours to catch Yugoslav troops in the open. A principal watcher locating, classifying and tracking ground targets in all weathers is the American Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, called JSTARS or Joint Stars, which was first used in the 1991 Gulf War. The joint US Army/US Air Force aircraft can look "sideways" into Kosovo from more than 150 miles away.

The Joint Stars is a modified Boeing 707 with a phased array radar antenna that can provide targeting and battle management data to operators in the aircraft and to ground stations. The radar can detect slow-moving vehicles and, helped by advanced signal processing, can tell the difference between wheeled and tracked vehicles.

When focusing on a smaller area of terrain, the radar image can be enhanced to provide a higher-resolution picture; and the Joint Stars' advanced synthetic aperture radar produces a photographic map of selected geographic areas, pinpointing precise locations of non-moving targets such as bridges, airports or parked vehicles.

The radar is reputed to be able to cover nearly 400,000 square miles of territory in a single eight-hour sortie. The Joint Stars is aided by two unmanned drones that provide even more precise tactical intelligence. These systems are the American Predator, used over Bosnia-Herzegovina since October 1995, and the German CL289.

The Predator, operating from a maximum altitude of 25,000ft, can produce pictures so clear that it is as if the camera is perched a few feet above the target. The German system consists of reusable drones that fly pre-programmed missions, sending back pictures. They return to ground by parachute.

'Human shields' limit Harriers' choice of targets

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN GIOIA DEL COLLE

RAF Harrier jet pilots resumed hazardous daylight raids on Kosovo yesterday but were being impeded by Serb military commanders using ethnic Albanian villagers as human shields, the RAF said. "Cluster-bomb units have been dropped today but there were fewer targets available than before," said Group Captain Ian Travers Smith, an RAF spokesman at the Gioia del Colle base in southeastern Italy.

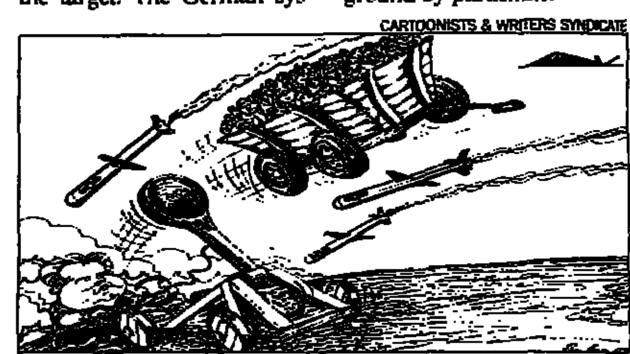
Asked what the problems facing the flyers were, he said: "There have been targets identified that were deemed unattackable."

Group Captain Travers Smith said that it was up to the pilots to make a final judgment over whether their bombs might cause unacceptable collateral damage or civilian casualties. "They have the pickle button," he said. "They are directed toward a target, if in their opinion the target is attackable it is their final decision."

Questioned whether Serb military convoys threatened by the Harriers had been moving into inhabited villages to avoid being bombed this week, Group Captain Travers Smith said: "Well what would you do? If somebody called you on a mobile phone and said that there were planes approaching you from 20 miles away, wouldn't you go and hide in a village?"

The latest daylight attacks by the Harriers were mounted just hours after a night raid launched on ammunitions store where the RAF acknowledged it achieved only "limited success" because of heavy anti-aircraft fire. The raid was also hampered by smoke and haze and a possible technical problem in one aircraft, but all the pilots brought their GR7 fighter-bombers back safely.

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE



Hagen's view of the conflict in *Verdens Gang* of Oslo

Nato steps up air war as Serbs tighten noose

Blair says ethnic cleansing must end, write **Philip Webster** and **Michael Evans**

TONY BLAIR yesterday made the defeat of Serbia's ethnic cleansing policy the "absolute precondition" of Nato calling off its assault against President Milosevic.

He joined President Clinton to warn the Yugoslav President that there could be no compromise over Kosovo and that the bombing would continue unabated.

There would be "no half-measures, no compromise", Mr Blair said in a hardline message that was also designed to prepare the country for further attempts by Mr Milosevic to divide the Nato alliance.

With the West claiming that Mr Milosevic's ceasefire offer in Kosovo had been spurred by weakness, Mr Blair raised the stakes.

He said on Sky News that, for Nato's bombing to stop, the policy of ethnic cleansing "has to be reversed and be seen to be defeated. That is the absolute precondition of Nato ceasing its action".

Then, on ITN, he added: "Milosevic must withdraw his forces from Kosovo, he must cease the policy of ethnic cleansing, and he must allow an international force in to allow people to return to their homes and villages.

"That must be the only set of terms on which Nato must settle this matter. Nothing less will do, no half-measures, no compromise."

In the interviews Mr Blair hinted that Kosovo refugees allowed into Britain were likely to be the elderly, sick and injured.

Downing Street sources said that the refugees coming to Britain would be granted "exceptional leave to remain". They would be housed in such places as old schools, hospitals and military establishments, but their stays there would be temporary.

The Prime Minister's comments came as a new strategy by Mr Milosevic to force ethnic Albanian refugees back into Kosovo was causing widespread concern within Nato and the United Nations.

Throughout the day there was confusion over the whereabouts of thousands of refugees who had been queuing up at the borders with Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Meanwhile, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that Nato was "ramping up" attacks on Yugoslavia.

More than 100 Nato aircraft were being sent on bombing missions throughout yesterday, including American B52 and B1B long-range bombers based at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

Asked about reports that Nato aircraft had hit targets in Montenegro, despite an alliance policy to exclude the Yugoslav republic from further bombing, a Nato official said there had been no "preplanned targets". If confirmed, it would be the first attacks on Montenegro for a week.

Mr Cook said: "If Milosevic wants out, he is going to have to try a lot harder [with peace terms]. The bottom line for us and all Nato is that President Milosevic must reverse the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo by allowing its people to return under international protection."

Nato is examining 49 alleged Yugoslav atrocities in Kosovo, and nine Yugoslav colonels have been named as potential war criminals. But there was no evidence, a Nato official said, that 50 villages had been torched since April 3.

Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said that the alliance was deeply preoccupied by the stories of war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law in Kosovo.

He said: "Every day brings in more evidence and Nato governments will be building a case in these next few days and weeks against those who are responsible." He said three mass graves had been identified from refugees' reports in the towns of Drenica, Malisevo and in the Pagarusa Valley in Kosovo.

Mr Cook said that there was evidence of killings in the past 24 hours, including reports of a mass execution carried out at Pastric, in southwest Kosovo, and the murder of 35 civilians at Sopi, northwest of Pastric.

CHRIS HARRIS



Robin Cook with Bili Djonballaj, an interpreter for the now closed British Embassy in Belgrade, and, left, Baton Haxhiu, a former editor in exile, during his announcement yesterday to fund a news network for Kosovans

Cook attacks Milosevic's greed

By MICHAEL EVANS

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, taunted President Milosevic yesterday, challenging him to come clean about his secret bank accounts, his villas on Greek islands and his "luxury yacht". In a direct challenge to Mr Milosevic, he said: "Your people have seen the economy of Serbia more than halved during your time in power.

"Tell the people of Serbia how much wealth you have sucked out of Serbia during the same years that they have been impoverished. Show your people the photographs of the villas you and your family own in Athens, Corfu and Crete. Let them see the luxury yacht you keep in Greece while they struggle to make ends meet."

He added: "And come clean with the reservists who are being called up, whether it is true that your son and his family are sitting out the war at their villa in Greece."

Brussels unveils £175m aid package

THE European Union yesterday unveiled a £175 million package of aid to Macedonia and Albania, the two states bearing the brunt of the exodus from Kosovo, and raised the prospect of long-term economic favours as a reward for coping with the crisis and aiding the Western alliance.

At the same time, EU interior ministers thrashed out a politically sensitive plan to share out the burden of housing refugees evacuated from Kosovo and to divide the costs.

Top Russian officials also held talks at Nato's headquarters as Germany and France pressed to bring Moscow into planning for a peace deal.

The EU aid package, expected to be approved by foreign ministers today, is part of an effort to finance the humanitarian relief operation and also to shore up the fragile governments of Macedonia and Albania, which stand to receive some £70 million in compensation payments.

Missile kills at least 9 in flats

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

TATE media in Serbia report- more civilian casualties of ato bombing raids yesterday ter a missile went through a istina block of flats.

A Belgrade television staon, quoting a journalist with e state Tanjug news agency Kosovo, claimed that at ast nine people had died and ght others were seriously jured. Dozens more could ll be missing in the rubble, njug said.

Earlier in the day several evision channels carried picres of Zoran Andjelkovic, ad of the emergency Kosovo vernment, picking through e ruins. The images were not dated through the day, a n that state television's abil- to transmit has been hamred by bomb damage to av stations.

Tanjug said that a Turkish nily of five named Gashi re killed in the blast, includ- children aged nine, seven d six. An Albanian also d, along with a Serbian stal worker. Another body ld be seen trapped beneath en masonry, and a ninth l not been identified.

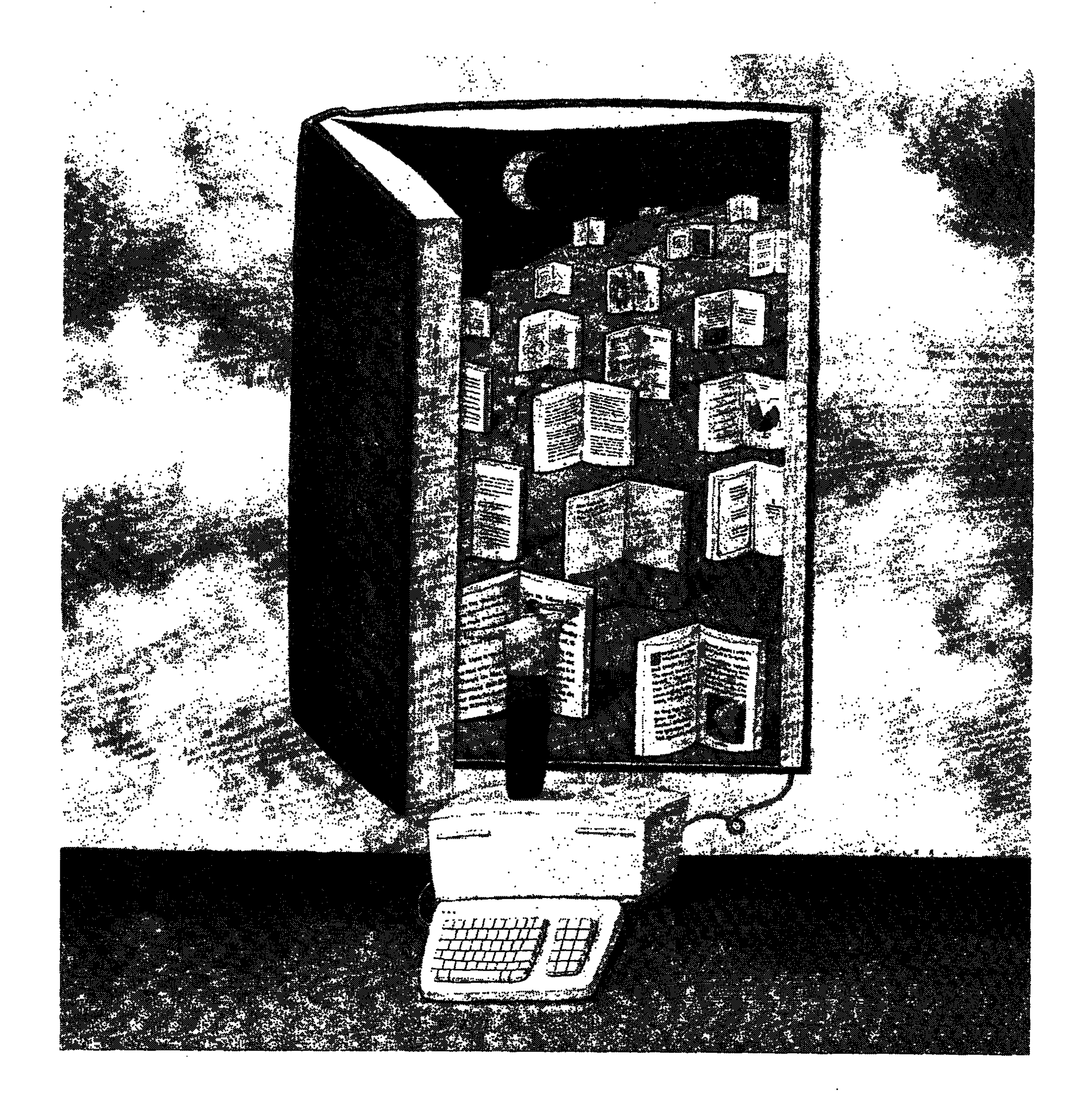
Local rescue workers said t their clearing-up operation was being hampered by unexploded ordnance. Selected international television crews were taken to the scene yesterday by the Yugoslav Army.

The Third Corps of the Yugoslav Army confirmed that it had halted operations in the province after the declaration of a unilateral ceasefire by President Milosevic of Yugoslavia. Sources would not confirm reports that Nato had hit a military convoy in Kosovo for the first time; they did say, however, that army barracks in the western city of Pec had suffered overnight damage.

BK television in Belgrade reported that at least ten missiles hit central Pristina and the city's airport. The other main damage reported from Tuesday night's strikes was in Novi Sad, where an oil refinery was blown up. Interviews with two night watchmen who survived were played on all media channels throughout the day.

Although Nato dismissed Mr Milosevic's ceasefire as a negotiating bluff, the Yugoslav President appeared determined to push his own solution to the crisis.

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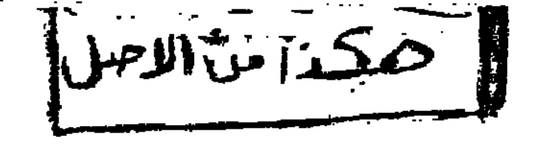
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Serbs shut off Albania escape route

Thousands have been ordered to turn back from the Albanian border to be used as human shields, writes **Sam Kiley** from Morine



A Kosovan refugee at a camp in Macedonia yesterday before Serb troops forced ethnic Albanians at the border to return to Kosovo to be used a human shields against airstrikes

CONSISTENTLY wrong-footing his Nato enemies, President Milosevic yesterday came up with a horrific new tactic, keeping Kosovo's remaining ethnic Albanians as human shields against Nato airstrikes on his armour and infantry rather than expelling them.

Mr Milosevic suddenly closed all border crossings into Albania at 3am yesterday and ordered his special police and border guards to force a U-turn in a 20-mile queue of terrified civilians waiting to escape to Albania.

Estimated to number between 80,000 and 100,000, the refugees were seen ordered out of their cars and tractors as they waited outside the Morine border post, and returning "home" to villages burnt and blown up during a fortnight of "ethnic cleansing" by Serb forces during Nato airstrikes.

"The offers of a ceasefire [by the Serbs] and the order to return to homes that have already been destroyed, you can bet your bottom dollar, are not because Milosevic is going to take care of Kosovo's Albanians," said Doran Vienneau, an observer at Morine with the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe.

"He's realised that, if he expels everyone, then he won't have any hostages and will leave Nato a clear field of fire. He's going to herd these people into holding areas, or chain them to tanks. He is capable of anything.

"This is close to the end game for the Kosovo Albanians and now Nato have to figure out how they're going to attack armoured divisions surrounded by civilians," Mr Vienneau added.

As he spoke, the sonic boom from Nato jets high above the valley of Morine was matched with the closer sounds of continued Serb bombardments of Kosovo's villages. Just across the border, the Serbs burnt a town after they ordered the huge line of refugees to return deep into Kosovo.

The confidence of the Serbs in Kosovo flew in the face of Nato statements boasting of success.

"We have evidence of units that had to go into holding operations or holding patterns because of shortages of, specifically, gas and ammo," said Rear-Admiral Thomas Wilson, director of intelligence for the American Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, he acknowledged that few troops or tanks have been struck, mostly because they are hiding in mountainous terrain or are too close to refugees.

Kenneth Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, said that the ceasefire offer "may be one sign that he [Mr Milosevic] is rattled". But Nato planners and their political masters will now have to grapple with the ghastly puzzle of up to half a million human shields in Kosovo. Kosovo's ethnic Albanians have pinned great hopes on the expected arrival of 24 Apache attack helicopters in Albania with orders to strike at the infantry and armour which has been turned on the region's civilians. Using the heavily armed Apaches in Kosovo could bring a new dimension to the conflict and provide the vanguard for a troop deployment on the ground. But intelligence sources and Nato spokesmen still admit that, more than two weeks into the air campaign, most of Yugoslavia's air defence systems are intact.

Guards close exiles' road to Macedonia

The same tactics by the Serbs are witnessed by **Danny McGrory** at Blace

SERB soldiers yesterday ordered thousands of Kosovo refugees back to their homes as they sealed their escape route into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Senior Nato officers, who used spy planes to monitor the forced return, believe that the Serbs intend to use these families as human shields against the intensifying bombardment of Pristina, the province's capital.

Nato sources last night said this is the first evidence of President Milosevic trying to pull some of his troops out of Kosovo to protect them from further airstrikes. The sound of bombing could clearly be heard coming from Pristina, even as the Serbs began to turn back the refugees in the darkness.

Witnesses told how Serb police started moving along the column of vehicles that has been stranded at the border checkpoints with Macedonia for ten days. One aid worker who was caught up in the 12-mile jam said men in the same uniforms as those who had warned her never to return to Kosovo were now assuring her it was safe to go home.

Colleagues she spoke to in Skopje yesterday said: "Families were asking the police how can it be safe when we hear bombs falling.

"The police offered some at the back of this line food and hot drinks. They brought petrol for those whose vehicles had run out. When it was clear to the Serbs that many were too scared to turn back to homes that were probably burnt out anyway, she said that the police told them at gunpoint to start their cars."

An aid official said: "The families did not know where they were going. They had to follow Serb police cars. Others were told to walk back the way they had come. This is a very sinister move."

To make sure there was no alternative for these dazed and confused families, the Serbs suddenly closed their road crossings at Blace and Jazince early yesterday.

At Blace, observers were so preoccupied with watching Macedonain troops evict an estimated 30,000 refugees from their side of the border that no one noticed Serb border police begin to push families away from their checkpoint near a cement factory.

Where 24 hours previously there had stood a solid mass of people and a stationary line of cars, now there was an empty road.

Eviction

Continued from page 1

anisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission, said: "We have to find out urgently what has happened to these people. I'm glad they are away from this cesspit, but now we have to make sure they are treated well and families are not split up."

Aid officials noted that there was room in the camps being hurriedly constructed by Nato troops all along the frontier, but British troops from the Brazde camp six miles away could only watch helplessly as they discreetly followed the procession of 350 buses heading southwest towards the Albanian border. The Nato commander Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Jackson said: "We have no authority to intervene, but we had made it clear we could take more refugees. We would like some explanation where they are."

By first light bulldozers were ready to obliterate what had become one of the most offensive symbols of how Kosovo's refugees were received by its southern neighbour. There was no attempt to retrieve any personal belongings or documents. Blace camp was being erased.

Aid groups are now switching their attention to the border at Jazince where the Macedonians were allowing only a trickle of refugees to cross.

At the times the only way across the 200 yards of no man's land was on a stretcher. Steve Gordon of the International Medical Corps said: "Thousands have been left in the open, just like Blace, with similarly no sanitation, shelter and food and no one has got to them."

Their ordeal worsened overnight as the Serbs closed the border on their side. All you could hear across the empty tarmac that marked the frontier crossing was the sound of children crying.

BALKANS WAR: POLICY DOUBTS

Albright made US scapegoat



The Secretary of State is being accused of misreading Milosevic, Ben Macintyre reports from Washington

Madeleine Albright, the hawkish US Secretary of State, has come under heavy fire in America for misreading President Milosevic and plunging America into a war in the Balkans without a clear idea of how to get out.

As the Nato bombardment continues, the US media have turned on Ms Albright as the principal American architect of that policy, accusing her of following an agenda based more on wishful thinking and personal inclination than diplomatic and military realities.

The wave of recrimination has raised the issue of whether Ms Albright can long retain her office if Mr Milosevic cannot be removed from his.

"Albright misjudged Milosevic on Kosovo," declared an untypically stark headline in *The Washington Post* yesterday, in which the Secretary of State was accused of basing US policy on the mistaken belief that the Serb leader would back down either before, or very soon after, Nato resorted to force.

"These miscalculations about the efficacy of the threat . . . have led the United States and its allies into an air war in Europe that has produced some of the same negative consequences they said they were trying to head off," the newspaper stated.

Forced on to the defensive, the combative Ms Albright has refused to acknowledge that US policymakers have been wrong-footed by the level of Serbian defiance or the scale of "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. Indeed, she has declined to discuss the steps that led to the bombardment.

"We will have plenty of time to go back and look at what we did or did not do . . . I am completely focused on what we are doing now," she said on Tuesday.

Ms Albright's critics say she played the leading role in rejecting the warnings of senior intelligence and military advisers and persuading President Clinton of the need to use force.

She was also the most vigorous proponent of the view that air power alone would suffice, predicting that Mr Milosevic, "a playground bully", would back off after one sharp punch on the nose, despite evidence to the contrary shown by another "bully" in Iraq.

That Mr Milosevic might hunker down through the air attacks while accelerating his onslaught in Kosovo was considered by Ms Albright and her advisers to be the least likely of scenarios.

One official has described the Yugoslav conflict as "Albright's war", and critics have argued that her enthusiasm for military action against Serbia is a reflection not only of her own history, as a wartime refugee from Czechoslovakia, but also of her personal ambition.

Desperate for a foreign policy success to compare with that of Richard Holbrooke, with whom she has often jostled over US policy in the Balkans, Ms Albright intended the peace talks at Rambouillet in France to be her own version of the Dayton accords and the apogee of her diplomatic career.

"Everyone in Albright's circle is very conscious of how anxious she is to have a victory to call her own. Instead, she now has a calamity of her own," wrote the columnist Arianna Huffington.

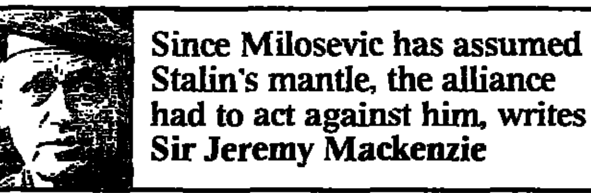
If the costly air bombardment continues without a definite result or, worse, evolves into a protracted ground war, then US public opinion is certain to be rather more than mildly irritated and there may be no one, least of all Bill Clinton, who will step in to save Ms Albright.

CAROL COLE / AP



An F117A Nighthawk Stealth fighter en route from its base in Oklahoma to join the campaign against Yugoslavia

Nato is on target in ideological battle



Since Milosevic has assumed Stalin's mantle, the alliance had to act against him, writes Sir Jeremy Mackenzie

For old Nato hands like me, some of the newspaper articles in recent days by former serving officers, many of whom are old friends and former colleagues, have revealed a worrying lack of understanding about the alliance.

There is real debate to be had about Nato's long-term role and how Kosovo will affect that. But from a military point of view, the crisis in the Balkans has shown Nato in a more positive light than its critics would have us believe.

Too many of these critics appear stuck in a Cold War mindset, and a Cold War that has been conveniently reassessed to fit their arguments. They portray Nato simply as a military counterweight to Russia, but it was more than that.

The North Atlantic Treaty opens with a commitment to safeguard the "freedom, common heritage and civilisation" of the member states. Nato was an ideological organisation when it was established in 1949 and it is an ideological organisation today. What has changed fundamentally is the context for this ideology. Nato was founded to protect Western Europe against the bullying and repression of Soviet communism which made life miserable for so many of our fellow Europeans for most of the second half of this century.

Russia has renounced totalitarianism and the methods of inflicting it on its people against which Nato protected us. But the Soviet Union's Stalinist mantle has been assumed by President Milosevic. He is inflicting on Kosovo precisely the pain and suffering that Nato was conceived to guard against.

The architects of Nato were determined that Stalin's totalitarianism should be resisted. Since Mr Milosevic has inherited Stalin's legacy, it is absolutely right that Nato should act against him. We should also be clear that Nato's operation is not simply the United States and Britain acting as Europe's policemen. This is a war on behalf of Europe, being waged by Europe.

The pictures we see on our television screens concentrate on the skill and bravery of RAF crews, and the significant contribution of the United States. This is entirely natural. But Kosovo is not a re-run of the Gulf War. Thirteen Nato allies are taking part in this operation: a Dutch F16 has shot down a Serbian MiG29 and German Tornados are playing key roles in suppressing Serb air defences. And the allies are doing so on the basis of political consensus. All Nato decisions are taken jointly by all allies. Nato is therefore dealing with Mr Milosevic in the same way that it has deterred Soviet aggression, as a truly multinational alliance.

Of course, in today's vastly different world, the strategy and tactics of the Cold War will no longer do. This is not a war for our national survival but a campaign to prevent a humanitarian disaster on our continent. The ends are different and so must be the means.

I have no doubt that the Nato air offensive will achieve its aim of degrading Mr Milosevic's ability to wage war on the people of Kosovo. But I also know that this too will take time. Quick fixes such as the Gulf War are the exception to the rule, and any professional critic who says otherwise is doing us all a disservice.

☐ *Sir Jeremy Mackenzie was Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe for Nato between 1994 and 1998*

How well was Blair briefed?



Did the men of Whitehall make Downing St fully aware of the risks involved in Nato's strategy? **Sue Cameron** asks

How strongly did Britain's top civil servants warn Tony Blair about the risks of his Balkan adventure? As it becomes clear that Nato has failed in its declared aim of protecting the Kosovan Albanians and the threat of a murderous ground war comes a little closer, civil service insiders are wondering if this war will go down as one of Whitehall's greatest failures.

"Did Whitehall bog it up?" asked one former top civil servant this week. "Or did the Prime Minister overrule civil servants when they laid out all the arguments against bombing Serbia? He has every right to do so, of course, but I am quite certain there will have been rumblings round the table of Committee Room C."

The large and elegant Committee Room C is in the Cabinet Office. It is where the permanent secretaries — the top civil servants in each government department — meet every Wednesday. It is chaired by the most senior mandarin of them all, Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary and confidant of Mr Blair. It is his success in forging a strong relationship with the Prime Minister that is raising eyebrows now.

Few in Whitehall doubt that Sir Richard will have put all the possibilities to Mr Blair. What some are wondering is whether he gave strong enough warnings about the worst-case scenarios. For rumblings at those top-level meetings in Committee Room C will all centre on the same things: how it was that the consequences of bombing were not thought through more thoroughly.

"Richard won't have wanted to jeopardise his relationship with Blair by going against a policy the Prime Minister wanted," said one man who has worked with the top civil servant. "Sir Richard is very courageous and he has a brilliant mind," another former colleague said. "But he is . . . well, a bit of a courtier."

Sir Richard will not have been the only mandarin intimately involved in advising ministers on the crisis. Sir John Kerr, head of the Foreign Office, will also have played a key role, as will Kevin Tebbit, senior official at the Ministry of Defence.

Sir John has spent much of his career in Europe, but his last post before taking over at the Foreign Office was as Ambassador in Washington and he is an Atlanticist. A former permanent secretary believes he may have been worried about the recent glitches in Britain's relationship with the US.

Some on the diplomatic circuit fear that Mr Blair's willingness to fall in behind the US bodes ill for the future of the "special relationship". As one former ambassador remarked: "We could be in for a period of poodledom."

Misgivings among diplomats are as nothing compared with the concern inside the Ministry of Defence.

The MoD must always be prepared for war. "It's what we keep them for and the military don't like to say no," one former permanent secretary said. However, the military has had its doubts from the start about the objectives of the Nato attack and whether Mr Milosevic could be bombed into submission.

In the Falklands conflict there was a clear, limited military objective — to oust the Argentine invaders, and only Britain and Argentina were involved. If Mr Blair hopes that this war will do for him what the Falkands did for Margaret Thatcher, he should think again.

☐ *Sue Cameron is a writer and broadcaster on Whitehall*

Yugoslavia stamps its defiance

Belgrade mocks Nato with a postal flourish, Tom Walker in Belgrade writes

YUGOSLAVIA issued an anti-Nato stamp yesterday in a mark of protest at the allied airstrikes against its towns and cities.

The stamp depicts a bull's eye — the logo of Serb demonstrators. Beneath it is written "target", a capital "A" to denote the first in the series, and "Yugoslavia" in Cyrillic.

"We have had a huge number delivered and we are expecting more designs," said a cashier in Belgrade's main post office in Takosvska Street last night. She said the stamps had no recent precedent, but philatelists in the city recalled the issue of a special series during the Second World War, when Belgrade was last bombed.

The stamp does not denote a denomination because of the plummeting value of the dinar. It can be used only domestically since all international mail deliveries have ceased. At yesterday's value, 50 stamps were selling for 102 dinars, or roughly £3.50.

The second issue in the series will feature an F117 Stealth bomber, the only US plane downed so far in the air war. The Stealth motif has already featured on a postcard from Budjanovci, where it came down. On the reverse side a message reads: "If undelivered, please return to the White House".

The bull's eye motif adorns T-shirts, baseball caps and badges. The more chic Belgraders also attach it to their pets as they take them for walks in the shopping district.

As in the winter of 1996, when tens of thousands demonstrated against the regime of President Milosevic, adversity seems to have brought out the city's creative best.

Television stations have shown an array of anti-Nato cartoons and sequences likening the Western alliance to Nazi Germany. BK television, run by Bogoljub Karic, the most powerful businessman in Serbia and a close friend of the Milosevics, has an especially creative graphics department. Yesterday the channel showed Nato aircraft flying in a swastika formation, followed by the simple caption: *Déjà vu*.



The first postage stamp in the anti-Nato series

The issue of the stamps came after a bleak day for the Yugoslav postal system: earlier, state television showed pictures from Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, where the main post office had apparently been destroyed by a rogue Nato missile.

The country's telephone system is just coping, although the small mobile network service in Kosovo has ground to a halt after Nato destroyed a vital transmitter. Landlines are coming under increasing strain, and connections to friendly countries like Greece, Russia and Ukraine tend to be better and easier. All links with Britain went down for 24 hours two days ago.

The bombing of bridges in the northern city of Novi Sad has also severed some communications networks, and there are fears that Yugoslavia's few Internet service providers might soon fold. With the postal system almost non-existent, bills cannot be posted.

The television network is similarly threatened, and the state-run Radio Television Serbia now relies on the frequencies of other stations in towns and cities to broadcast its message. In many rural areas, there is no longer any television service.

Sources in Radio Television Serbia say they fear that the station's headquarters in central Belgrade could be targetted by Nato missiles, although the building is located in a more built-up area than the Interior Ministry, which was destroyed by a twin batch of Tomahawks last weekend.



Yugoslavs protesting at Nato raids display the bull's eye logo which they have adopted as their anti-war symbol

A cheap weapon in time of war

By Christine Middap

POSTAGE stamps are a relatively cheap propaganda tool in times of war.

David Beech, the head of the philatelic collection at the British Library, said that while stamps were often issued to commemorate a victory, it was not uncommon for them to be used for propaganda purposes.

"Essentially, the more need for propaganda the more extreme the stamps. They are common when a country needs to demonstrate what is happening for propaganda purposes," he said.

An example of this was a series of stamps issued by Russia in 1940 called "Occupation of Eastern Poland". The stamps depicted Poles welcoming Soviet troops and waving to columns of tanks. Another scene showed soldiers distributing newspapers to the people.

Hitler's head appeared on stamps in Germany from the 1930s. These survived the end of the Second World War, when the Allied occupation forces continued to use the stamps with the offending face masked by stars.

More recently, Hanoi issued stamps during the Vietnam War depicting victorious Vietcong fighters on captured American tanks.

Nationalist demagogue thrives on catastrophe

Power struggle pits Serb against Serb, writes Eve-Ann Prentice

NATO'S rejection of Yugoslavia's ceasefire offer in Kosovo is likely to fuel a vicious battle now under way in Belgrade, one which pits Serb against Serb.

For the alliance bombing is helping to bolster the power of a former paramilitary leader said to be mentally scarred after being tortured and allegedly raped by Muslim prisoners when he served a jail sentence in his native Sarajevo.

Vojislav Seselj, the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister who counts among his friends Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian nationalist extremist, and Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French far-right leader, is determined to "cleanse" Serbia of the moderates and democrats he denounces as traitors and fifth columnists.

Masked men in the pay of Mr Seselj and his Radical Party are believed to be behind a campaign of beatings and intimidation aimed at ridding the country of human rights activists and champions of democracy. The victims include lawyers, journalists and intellectuals, many of whom have fled to Hungary.

Mr Seselj fosters a belief that the Nato bombings are largely the fault of moderates and his power base is spreading at the expense of politicians such as Vuk Draskovic, his counterpart in the federal Yugoslav Government. It was Mr Draskovic who on Tuesday announced the Kosovo ceasefire offer and even Downing Street recognises that his star is waning, saying that he has "zero power".

One aspect of Mr Seselj's campaign has been the closure of several leading independent Serbian newspapers and the respected B92 radio station. He is also believed to be behind the orders to instruct guards to keep foreign journalists out of the country by refusing to acknowledge visas issued by Mr Draskovic's ally, the Yugoslav Information Minister, Milan Komnenic.

In the Byzantine world of Balkan politics, Mr Seselj has a complex relationship with President Milosevic and his wife, Mira Markovic.

Political analysts in Belgrade believe that the ex-paramilitary chief has been used by Mr Milosevic to garner support among the less well-educated. But now some fear that his frenzied anti-Western rhetoric may be striking a chord with more moderate Serbs who are united against the Nato bombings.

Although Mr Seselj has in the past denounced Mrs Markovic, he and his party are closely allied to her United Yugoslav Left movement.

A skilful manipulator of his audiences, Mr Seselj employs the same tactics as Mr Zhirinovsky, making promises of money to those who have been hardest hit by sanctions — the mass of Serbian workers and pensioners.

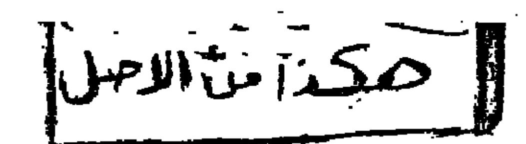
Born in Sarajevo in 1950, Mr Seselj was reported to be the brightest student of political science of his generation at Sarajevo University. However, he seems to have undergone a personality change after being jailed for 22 months in 1984, after the discovery of a "counter-revolutionary" document written by him. The manuscript, which was never published, advocated a multi-party system and the ending of republic status for Bosnia and Montenegro. Bosnia was too Muslim, he wrote in his treatise, while Montenegro was so full of Serbs that it should just be a natural part of Serbia. It was while serving his sentence that he was certainly tortured and allegedly raped by fellow prisoners. During the wars in Croatia and Bosnia, Mr Seselj led one of the two most feared paramilitary groups, the other being headed by Arkan.

Now Mr Milosevic faces a crucial choice — whether to throw in his lot with Mr Seselj, or to shore up the flagging support for Mr Draskovic. Clearly there is no longer room for both men in Serbia's corridors of power.



Seselj: experience in jail made him a hardliner





هكذا من الأصل

Teenage girl dies in new danger sport

By Adrian Lee and Roger Maynard in Sydney

A BRITISH schoolgirl has died in Australia while "canyoning", an adventure sport that involves swimming through fast-flowing river gorges.

Siobhan Halls, 17, drowned in the Blue Mountains area, about 50 miles west of Sydney, where she was on holiday. She is believed to have hit her head on a rock. Her father, Richard, said yesterday that she was not wearing a safety helmet.

The relatively new activity has claimed several lives. It is recognised as one of the most dangerous of the "white-knuckle" activities, which include bungee jumping and white-water rafting. Canyoning involves following the path of a river by swimming, scrambling over rocks and abseiling down waterfalls.

Mr Halls, who runs a stables, said his daughter was a keen horserider who was aware of the dangers of head injuries. "She would never ride without a helmet — that is what surprises me."

Miss Halls, from Steppingley in Bedfordshire, was with two male friends when the accident happened in the Mount Wilson area, near the town of Katoomba, where a network of creeks have cut deep, narrow gorges into the rock.

Her companions, both Australians, told police that they were swept away during the expedition along the Wollangambe River on Monday. They managed to drag themselves out of the swirling water but became separated from the schoolgirl.

Because the rugged mountain area is so remote, it took them five hours to raise the alarm. Miss Halls's body was recovered next day by New South Wales police. It was wedged underwater by rocks.

Officers said yesterday that heavy rain had transformed the river into a fast-flowing flood, making conditions more risky than usual.

Mr Halls said his daughter, a lower sixth form pupil at Redborne Upper School in Ampthill, Bedfordshire, was not a strong swimmer but was taking lessons.

Apart from a sailing course, she had not taken part in adventure activities before. A member of the Pony Club, she had ridden for Bedfordshire and had five horses.

She had travelled to Sydney with her mother, Jean, for a five-week holiday and was staying with an aunt. The two young men involved were friends of the family.

Bryant's Eye, page 49



ROY RILEY

Siobhan Halls, a keen horse-rider, was said by her father not to be a strong swimmer

Canyons give thrill-seekers ultimate high

By Adrian Lee

CANYONING evolved from potholing and abseiling as lovers of "extreme sports" continued their search for the ultimate outdoor thrill.

It is believed that the sport, which is sometimes known as "canyoneering", was invented by potholers looking for undiscovered caves in France or New Zealand. A combination of walking, swimming, jumping and climbing, it attracts only the most daring adventurers.

Activity and outdoor centres across the world include it in their programmes, alongside established "white-knuckle" pursuits, such as white-water rafting. In Scotland, one company asks would-be canyoneers to sign disclaimers stating that they feel confident with their heads under water in confined spaces. A session costs £32.

Hard-core enthusiasts take to rivers at night, sometimes throwing themselves 100ft into deep pools. Although Miss Halls was not wearing a helmet, most centres insist on one, as well as elbow pads, ropes, a wetsuit and buoyancy aids. Instructors with mountaineering qualifications are always present.

The sport has claimed at least one other British life. In 1996, a 43-year-old Ayrshire man died when he was sucked into a whirlpool while canyoning in the French Alps.

"Of course all these sports have an element of risk," said a spokeswoman for one British company. "Canyoning is about pushing yourself to the extreme."

In the Blue Mountains, a vast area of creeks and rivers, at least four companies offer one-day canyoning expeditions, and injuries are not uncommon. A worker at one adventure company in Katoomba said: "Canyoning is more dangerous than abseiling or climbing. You are often walking on slippery rocks and can fall. But if you go with a reputable company, the accident rate is low."

Twin drowned after coastguard dinghy warning

By Michael Horsnell

A GIRL who drowned when her inflatable toy dinghy was swept out to sea died only hours after a warning by coastguards of the danger.

Hayley Butler, 12, is believed to have jumped out when the dinghy was about 100 metres from the shore in an attempt to swim to safety against the tide.

Her twin sister Hannah and a cousin, also 12, got back to the beach at the small Lincolnshire resort of Huttoft, near Mablethorpe. But, as her parents watched helplessly, Hayley sank within five minutes while clutching a plastic paddle.

After an incident involving two people in a dinghy the day before, coastguards had given warnings on local radio and in regional newspapers that inflatable dinghies were too flimsy and unstable to be taken into the sea.

The dead girl's mother Tricia, 44, said: "Hayley was just a jolly kid. She was very good to the elderly neighbours near us. She was a very popular member of her class at school. We were just having a family afternoon on the beach with the kids when this happened."



Hayley Butler: her twin sister made it ashore

The girl, whose father died several years ago, had lived with her mother, stepfather, twin sister and brother Dean, 15, in Mablethorpe since moving from Derby eight years ago.

By last night her body had still not been found but the dinghy was recovered 90 minutes after the incident, four miles off shore.

John Harrison, the Lincolnshire sector manager for HM Coastguard, said: "It's foolhardy using an inflatable dinghy at sea. During the summer we go along the beaches pleading with people not to go out in inflatables but they ignore us and some of them end up dead."

Mobile phones 'quicken the brain'

OFFICIAL: MOBILE PHONES SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS
Radiation zaps your nervous system says new Government study

Critics have blamed mobile phones for stress and cancer

Scientists allay memory loss fears but want more research on brain 'hot spot', reports Nigel Hawkes

MOBILE telephones do not damage memory, although they do have one unexpected effect: quicker reaction times.

This could be caused by localised heating in one part of the brain and needs further investigation, according to a study ordered by the Government in response to fears about the safety of mobile phones.

If the heating is caused by microwave emissions, the study team at Bristol University said, it could have long-term health effects. This is because the body produces heat-shock proteins as a normal response to heating, and the long-term effect of such proteins in the brain is not known.

Contrary to earlier press reports, the study, published in the *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, found no effect on short-term memory in 36 volunteers subjected to half-hour bursts of microwave radiation mimicking mobile telephones.

The volunteers had devices simulating the microwave output of mobile telephones clamped on their left ears, placing them close to the areas of the brain that control language. They were shown words and pictures on a computer screen and tested for how well they recalled them.

The results show that recall was not affected by whether or not the device was turned on. Nor were any changes found in tests for spatial awareness or attention.

The experiments did show a small improvement in reaction times. The words "yes" and "no" were flashed on to the screen and the volunteers had to react by pressing a matching button. When the headset was switched on and mimicking an analogue telephone, reaction times improved by 4 per cent.

Although this change is small, it occurred in two groups of volunteers and is unlikely to be a chance finding. A similar trend was observed with digital signals but was not statistically significant.

A plastic head is used to show the effect of a mobile telephone on human brain tissue. The government-backed study found localised heating but the cause was not clear

Alan Preece, the project leader, said that the suspect heating was "mild" but said that further tests were required. His team has already begun testing to see if the microwave transmissions can effect blood flow and to learn more about the cause of the heating.

His suggestion of a heating effect is controversial as telephone firms say that there is insufficient microwave power from mobile telephones to produce such an effect. They say that if there is any heating, some other mechanism must be at work.

The study was funded by the Department of Health and by trustees of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust. It was carried out amid fears that mobile telephones may cause stress, memory loss or even cancer.

The volunteers did not know if the telephones were switched on or off, or if they were emitting analogue or digital signals. Dr Preece and colleagues speculate that the signals may be having an effect on the angular gyrus, a ridge-shaped part of the cerebral cortex of the brain which acts as an interface between the visual and speech centres and which lies under and on the same side as a mobile telephone.

"Such an effect could be consistent with mild, localised heating or possibly a non-thermal response which is, nevertheless, power-dependent," the team concludes. The effect of the microwaves seems to be to speed the flow of electrical signals through the angular gyrus but it remains unclear why this should happen.

Although the effect is not damaging, opponents of mobile telephones are likely to use it as evidence that the phones affect the brain. If an apparently beneficial effect can exist, then a damaging one is equally possible.

☐ Devices sold to protect mobile telephone users against microwaves offer some benefits but at the cost of worse reception, tests commissioned from the National Physical Laboratory by *New Scientist* have shown.

The laboratory tested the Microshield and Oyster Radiation Eliminator. They used two mobile telephones: a Nokia 2110 and Motorola MR30. Field strength was tested inside a head made of a human skull covered in mock flesh.

When the telephones were used with their antennae down, the Microshield cut the field strength inside the head by 34 per cent for the MR30, and 17 per cent for the Nokia, while the Oyster cut the field by 48 per cent with the Nokia, and 16 per cent with the MR30. With the antennae up, both devices were less effective and made reception worse.

The best way to limit the brain's exposure, the magazine concludes, is to use a "hands-free" set which enables the telephone to be worn on a belt. This cuts exposure to the brain by 94 per cent with no loss of reception, but other parts of the body are exposed to microwaves.

SYMPTOMS AND RESEARCH

Cancer

In 1997 researchers at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia spent 18 months exposing mice to microwave radiation at the intensity and frequency emitted by digital mobile phones. Twice as many mice developed lymphomas, a cancer of the lymph system, as those not exposed. But three other teams have tried and failed to replicate the result. In the latest study, scientists at Brooks Air Force Base in Texas exposed mice genetically engineered to be susceptible to breast tumours to microwaves for 20 hours a day for 18 months, but saw no increase in cancer rates. Michael Repacholi, who is co-ordinating research for the World Health Organisation into the health effects of electromagnetic radiation, told *New Scientist* that he is reserving judgment on his study until it can be replicated. "If they don't come up with the same result, that will be a happy outcome," he said.

Heating the brain

Claims that mobile phones can heat the brain have been treated sceptically until now. Even if true, the degree of heating would be much less than that achieved by mild exercise, and unlikely to have long-term effects. More worrying would be evidence that microwaves have a subtle and previously unknown effect on cells. Today's evidence from Bristol University hints at such an effect.
Research at Nottingham University, led by David de Pomerai, has shown that exposing nematode worms to microwaves produces heat-shock proteins. These are produced by cells in response to many kinds of stress in addition to heat. These experiments could not have generated sufficient heat to produce the heat-shock proteins, so Dr de Pomerai believes there may be a separate mechanism at work.

DNA damage

Henry Lai, of the University of Washington in Seattle, claimed in 1995 that rats exposed to microwaves showed breaks in their DNA of the kind caused by carcinogenic chemicals or X-rays. If so, one would expect microwaves to cause cancer if exposure lasted long enough. But two teams — in St Louis, Missouri, and Belgium — have since failed to replicate the result. The World Health Organisation is now spending $6 million, partly funded by mobile phone firms, on an epidemiological study that will compare 3,000 brain tumour patients with 3,000 controls to see if there is any difference in their mobile phone use.

Headaches and tiredness

A study from Sweden last year showed that people who made frequent mobile phone calls were more likely to complain of headaches and tiredness. But people's expectations can colour such studies. Users in Norway, where mobile phone fears had been publicised, were twice as likely to complain than those in Sweden, where fewer such stories appeared in the media.

'Corrie' makes US debut 38 years on

By Carol Midgley

CORONATION STREET is finally to be shown in America 38 years after the first episode was broadcast.

Television executives are confident that the regulars of the Rover's Return, who say "by 'eck", eat hotpot and drink pints of Newton and Ridley bitter, will conquer an American audience raised on more glamorous epics such as *Dallas* and *Dynasty*.

A deal was announced yesterday between Granada Media International, part of Granada Television which makes and produces *Coronation Street*, and Trio, the drama, documentaries and film channel in the United States which is broadcast nationally on satellite and cable.

American viewers will join the show during its 1994 episodes when Tania, a barmaid at the Rover's, embarks on a torrid affair with the local romeo, Des Barnes (now deceased in the soap), behind his girlfriend's back. Executives decided they could not risk going further back than this because fashions and hairstyles would have been too outdated for 1999.

A spokeswoman for Granada Media International said: "We had to find a suitable point to start where the storyline was dramatic enough to hook a new audience but where people's clothes wouldn't look too odd."

The soap, which has been running in Britain for 38 years, has been sold to more than 35 countries.





Luke Bettelley with his parents, Jill and David. The boy was given two days to live

Mother makes history to save her son from death

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

A BOY whose life was saved by the donation of part of his mother's liver — a transplant that made British medical history — was doing well in hospital yesterday. Luke Bettelley, 18 months old, was "laughing and smiling and throwing his toys around", his father, David, said.

A month earlier, Luke had been given less than two days to live. His mother, Jill, from Worthing in West Sussex, immediately volunteered to give part of her own liver even though it put her at risk. "I could have died on the operating table, but that didn't even come into it," she said. "My only concern was for Luke and what I could do for him."

Unlike other organs, the liver can regenerate, so it is possible to remove part of the donor's liver and give it to the patient. But in past such operations in Britain, the patient has always suffered from chronic, rather than acute, liver failure. In Luke's case, he was already showing the first signs of headaches and delirium from acute liver failure when he was taken to King's College Hospital.

Mrs Bettelley, 32, pleaded to be allowed to be the donor. On March 5 surgeons spent four hours removing a third of her liver, and another six hours transplanting it into Luke.

"This is a big operation and not without risk for the parent who becomes a donor," Nigel Heaton, the transplant surgeon, said. "It also puts the other parent under the most enormous stress."

Mohammed Rela, the consultant surgeon who carried out the operation, said: "In the absence of a suitable donor, Luke would certainly have died. Jill and David have both been marvellous throughout and were very brave and positive, which helped us do our job well."

Transplant boom raises prospect of divorce haggling

By Helen Rumbelow

ORGAN donation between spouses will soon become part of divorce settlements, according to the surgeon who performed Britain's first liver, pancreas and intestine transplants.

Sir Roy Calne predicted that husbands and wives who divorce will put a price on the cost of the organ they donated as an act of loving sacrifice.

"Thirty per cent of marriages end in divorce and if a spouse has given a kidney, you have to expect that divorce settlements will start to question how much a kidney is worth," he said. "A wife who has donated an organ may say, 'what I gave to my husband represents a certain per cent of his estate'."

The big increase in organs donated from living people is creating "one of the unique ethical concerns that have never been faced in medicine before". As an example, Sir Roy suggested the moral confusion that might arise if the practice extended to estranged couples. "If a wife is willing to donate an organ to her husband as part of a divorce settlement, is that acceptable as an emotionally concerned patient, or unacceptable as a compensated patient?" Live transplants in Britain had tripled recently as a result of the shortage of organs made available from people who die. The United Kingdom Transplant Support Service Authority recorded 89 live donor kidney transplants in 1991; by 1998 that figure had risen to an estimated 246.



Calne: asked how much a kidney is worth

Transplant surgery has become much more common since the introduction of more successful immune-suppression drugs in 1982. In 1975 there were ten liver transplants in Europe; 20 years later there were 3,266. Sir Roy said, however, that transplant surgery had been a victim of its own success: there were now 6,000 people in Britain on the waiting list for organs.

He was uncomfortable with the trend for live transplants because of the moral issues that might not be immediately obvious.

The best kind of transplant donor was the patient's brother or sister but "enormous pressure" might be put upon them behind the scenes, he told the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry in London. "It is not reasonable to regard it as a right to have a transplant: it isn't, it is a privilege. It may not be fair, when we know that brothers and sisters don't always love each other."

Sir Roy, Professor of Surgery Emeritus at Cambridge University, said that litigation was already beginning in America. The case of one engaged couple was still awaiting settlement.

Richard McNutt had told his fiancée that he had to delay their wedding plans until he received a kidney transplant. His intended, Dorothy Zauhar, persuaded her brother to donate one of his kidneys.

After the operation was successfully carried out in 1997, Mr McNutt married a nurse in the dialysis unit and Ms Zauhar sued her former fiancé, accusing him of "theft by swindle of body organ".

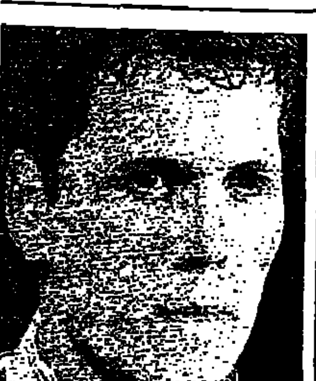
INSIDE SECTION 2



Tim Severin on Eric Newby's classic voyage, right

Lives rebuilt from rubble: Erica Wagner reviews Philip O'Casey's euphorical novel

Books, pages 38, 39







The murder suspects — from left, Jamie Acourt, Luke Knight, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Neil Acourt — were interviewed separately

Lawrence plea fails to keep suspects off TV

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent

THE first interviews with the five men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence will be broadcast tonight despite protest from the black teenager's family.

The men will break their silence on *Tonight*, a new ITV current affairs programme, in a series of "rigorous interrogations" by the journalist Martin Bashir. Last night Granada TV executives were in discussions with the Lawrence family's lawyer, Imran Khan, over allowing the boy's parents, Doreen and Neville, to see the interviews prior to broadcast.

Jeff Anderson, the Editor of Tonight, insisted that the programme did not provide the men — Jamie and Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris — with a platform to protest their innocence. He said: "The programme includes significant new material that may open new avenues of inquiry for the police. However, we are confident that it will not prejudice any possible future prosecution. The programme is a rigorous and detailed interrogation of the five men and in no way provides them with a platform. No areas of questioning were off limits and no payment was asked for or made."

Mr and Mrs Lawrence have declared themselves "disgusted" by ITV's decision to give the men a voice. They considered organising a campaign to boycott the programme but are understood to have decided that such a strategy could backfire by drawing more attention to it.

Much is expected of the hour-long *Tonight* show, hosted by Trevor McDonald, which is modelled on American television's *60 Minutes*. It was central to the network's argument that it would maintain its commitment to serious news and current affairs programming despite scrapping *News at Ten*.

Mr Bashir, who conducted the *Panorama* interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, and was accused of being overly sympathetic to the British au pair Louise Woodward when he interviewed her, is said to be "tough to the point of hostile" with the men. He insisted on interviewing them separately at a neutral location and the men were not allow to confer with each other about questions they had been asked.

The Metropolitan Police has started legal proceedings under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act to gain access to all the tapes, which amount to several hours, whether or not they are used in the final broadcast. None of the five has faced a full trial for the race murder. A private prosecution begun by the Lawrence family in 1995, after the Crown Prosecution Service had decided not to proceed, ended with three being acquitted at the Old Bailey after evidence was ruled inadmissible. Charges against the two others had been dropped.

Ros Howells, a friend of Mr and Mrs Lawrence, said: "These five men have had ample opportunity to say what they want to say at the inquest and at the judicial inquiry. At both they were told they were free to speak and they avoided answering the questions."

Last month, the men's mothers gave an interview to John Humphrys, of Radio 4's *Today* programme, in which they protested their sons' innocence and vowed to campaign to clear their names.

TV listings, page 51

POLICE TO PAY £1m PROTECTION BILL

The Home Secretary faced new protests over the Stephen Lawrence report yesterday after it emerged that the Metropolitan Police is footing an extra £1 million bill arising from its bungled publication (Philip Webster writes). An appendix to the report inadvertently included the names and addresses of witnesses to the teenager's murder. It was hastily withdrawn and a witness protection and relocation scheme put in place. The responsibility for the oversight was admitted by the inquiry team, although the Home Office faced strong criticism for not spotting the blunder. Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, told Jack Straw last night that a great deal of the responsibility rested with him and his ministers.

Stabbing accused 'played up to camera'

By Russell Jenkins

A MAN celebrating a friend's stag night was stabbed almost to death by a member of a group that was being videotaped by a film crew, Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

The court was told that Paul Massey, 39, the alleged assailant, and three friends were under the influence of drink and excited by the attentions of the film makers when they attacked the party's minibus outside a nightclub. Peter Wright, for the prosecution, said that Massey, of Salford, Manchester, smashed one of the vehicle's windows, chased it through the Manchester city centre, then stabbed 29-year-old Wayne Wisdom so badly that he needed eight litres of blood and plasma to save his life.

Massey, Gregory Hayes, 30 of Withington, Manchester; Mark Boomer, 34, of Blackley, Manchester; and Paul Flannery, 39, deny conspiracy to commit violent disorder in Manchester last July. Massey pleaded not guilty to wounding Mr Wisdom with intent to do grievous bodily harm and Boomer denies assaulting a police officer with the intention of preventing Massey's arrest.

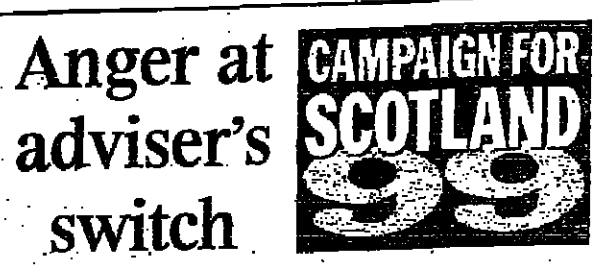
The jury was told that an independent film crew had been following the four accused as they drove round Manchester in an Audi and a BMW.

They used two cameras to film the group as they travelled around nightclubs behaving in a high-spirited and increasingly disorderly fashion. Mr Wright said that they were "playing up to the camera" and " a disaster waiting to happen".

Mr Wisdom was one of a party of more than 30 people from Leeds who had travelled to Manchester for the night. After the car chase, the court was told, Mr Wisdom was seen to headbutt Massey, and Massey was then seen to lunge towards Mr Wisdom with a knife in his hand.

Mr Wright said that the jury would see film footage taken by the crew during the evening.

The trial continues.



Anger at adviser's switch

The Scottish National Party accused Labour of "blurring the lines between government and party" yesterday following the appointment of a former Treasury civil servant to the Holyrood election campaign. Mike Russell, the SNP's chief executive, has demanded to know why Ed Milliband, who resigned his post as an adviser to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last week, is now working on Labour's Scottish campaign. Mr Russell added: "If Ed Milliband did resign last week, has he been guaranteed his old job back? It appears to be a matter of convenience." A Labour spokesman said that Mr Milliband resigned so that he could work in Scotland during the campaign and would not be paid from public funds or have any involvement in Treasury business while undertaking party work. "This is entirely consistent with Cabinet Office procedures," the spokesman added.

A question of address

Lord Steel of Aikwood took time out from his party's manifesto launch to praise the ingenuity of postal staff in the Scottish Borders who had delivered a mysteriously addressed letter to his home in Selkirk. The former Liberal leader awoke yesterday to find the missive from a woman in Warwickshire on his doormat addressed to "Mr David Steel, The Labour Party, Scotland". Someone in the postal sorting office had recognised the recipient and had scribbled Lord Steel's postcode on the envelope.

Greens slip on banana

The Scottish Green Party issued its first press release of the election campaign, condemning American intransigence in the banana war and calling for consumers to boycott bananas grown by the large commercial producers until the U.S. agrees to withdraw high tariffs on imports such as Scottish cashmere. Less than an hour later, the trade war ended in an agreement. "We weren't aware that it was about to end," a party spokesman said. "However, it is good news."

'May sanity prevail'

Candidates for the Scottish parliament were urged not to follow Tony Blair's example and call each other "lunatics", "nutters" or "crazy". Karen Prentice, of the Scottish Mental Health Association, said: "It is unacceptable for Tony Blair to talk of headbangers in the Shadow Cabinet, men in white coats, and lunatics taking over the asylum. Our language is still riddled with derogatory terms. Perhaps devolution will pave the way for a more polite and enlightened parliament."

Quote of the day

Jim Wallace, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, launching his party's election manifesto:

" Education is the key to Scotland's future. Without high quality education Scotland will not be able to compete in a world economy. The Scottish Liberal Democrats commitment to Scotland's education system will restore us to world class levels "

AGENDA

Today: The Prime Minister, on a two-day visit to Scotland, is travelling to Lossiemouth on board Labour's battlebus. Paddy Ashdown is attending a press conference in Edinburgh before going to St Andrew's with the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Jim Wallace. The SNP launches its manifesto in Edinburgh and the Conservatives open their election campaign in Edinburgh.

Brown brands SNP a 'high tax' party

By Jason Allardyce and Gillian Harris

GORDON BROWN stepped up Labour's Scottish election campaign yesterday by claiming that "dangerous" and "uncaring" nationalists would make poor Scots poorer.

The Chancellor said that the choice facing voters in the Scottish parliamentary election was between Labour's focus on enterprise and fairness and the Scottish National Party's high tax and incompetence.

Mr Brown, speaking in Glasgow, delivered one of his hardest-hitting attacks on the SNP so far. He said that its commitment to forego his penny income tax cut to invest in public services would "drive business away and cost jobs".

"Tax revenues would then fall. Less money would be available for public services," he said. "The result would be to leave many people who work hard day in and day out still struggling to make ends meet while they pay more in taxes."

Mr Brown also attacked the SNP's refusal to support international action in Kosovo and said that the party "would even take Scotland out of Nato".

Earlier, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, unveiled details of Labour's pledge card, which includes:

- ☐ A Scottish drugs enforcement agency, which would seize the assets of suspected dealers without waiting for criminal convictions.
- ☐ No income tax rises during the first term of parliament.
- ☐ Twenty thousand modern apprenticeships.
- ☐ At least four modern computers for every Scottish classroom.
- ☐ New hospital developments and a 24-hour NHS direct telephone helpline.

The Liberal Democrats' manifesto published yesterday promised 2,000 more teachers and an end to university tuition fees for Scottish students. Jim Wallace, the party's Scottish leader, said that the penny tax cut would be foregone only if savings could not be made from the existing Scottish Office budget.

Women make their mark in Asian business

Wives emerging from husbands' shadow now feature in top 200, reports Adam Sherwin

WOMEN are gradually breaking into the male-dominated world of Asian business, with 16 appearing in the latest annual survey of Britain's richest Asians, produced by *Eastern Eye* newspaper.

The women, traditionally the power behind entrepreneurial husbands, are emerging to run ventures in their own right.

Perween Warsi, the founder of SA Foods, the chilled and frozen food company, is the highest-placed woman in the list. Mrs Warsi, 42, who has an estimated net wealth of £35 million, is joint 29th. Her husband, Talib, a doctor, gave up his practice to work for her business, which employs 600 people. Mrs Warsi takes a matter-of-fact view of her success. "I wasn't satisfied with the Indian food on the market. It occurred to me that I could do better," she said.

Most successful Asian-British businesswomen work in the food sector and remain business partners with their husbands. Meena Pathak is valued at £30 million together with her husband, Kirit, with whom she built up Patak Spices. A former model in India, she is credited with adding the creativity to her husband's financial skills.

Tej and Bobby Dhillon, brother and sister, have built up a £30 million hotel chain and are expecting to acquire more properties this year.

The marketplace can still be an uncomfortable place for Asian businesswomen. Zeenat Harnel became a director of the food producers Noon Products, a company she helped to found with her father. But Mrs Harnel discovered that her father, who does not have a son, had sold the business without informing her. "It was a shock," she admitted.

Namita Panjabi, co-owner of the Chutney Mary restaurant group, who entered the top 200 for the first time with earnings of £5 million, said that British-Asian businesswomen are 50 years behind their counterparts in India.

"There are a lot of businesswomen in India who are doing very well, but it has not yet happened in this country. The immigrant families here are very conservative and they are holding on to their traditions. It still seems like the 1950s."

The Hinduja brothers, global traders, are named as the richest British-Asians, with wealth totalling £1.3 billion. Food retailing and fashion are the highest-earning sectors in the list.

There are 43 individuals involved in food, with a combined worth of £853.5 million, and 39 individuals and companies in fashion, with a combined worth of £775 million. The latter sector includes such high street names as Joe Bloggs and New Look.

The highest new entry is Iqbal Ahmed, of Seafood Marketing International in Manchester, at number 21, with a net worth of £60 million. The biggest climber is James Caan, who founded the executive recruitment consultancy, Alexander Mann, in 1985: he rose from 153 last year to 20.

About 50 Asian businessmen are expected to make it into the next *Sunday Times Rich List*, which will be published on Sunday.

The Hinduja brothers and the steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal, who came second in the Asian list with wealth of £1.2 billion, are both likely to feature in the top ten.



Success in a man's world: Namita Panjabi, co-owner of Chutney Mary, with Avtar Lit of Sunrise Radio. Both feature in the richest Asian 200

Food and fashion moguls earn a place on rich list



Srichand Hinduja: returns to the top of the 200 list

1 £1.3bn; Hinduja, Srichand and Gopi. A return to the top for global trading oil and banking family. Based in London but with a strong focus in India. Offered to underwrite Spirit Zone in the Millennium Dome, caused political controversy
2 £1.2bn; Mittal, Lakshmi. Steel baron, slips from the top after a slump in share price of his Ispat International company. Lives in Hampstead but highlight of year was four-day wedding of son in Calcutta
3 £450m; Chandra, Subhash. Indian television magnate who made fortune in trading
4 £325m; Lord Paul. Steel trader-turned Labour peer. Investment of £500,000 in *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* has made him sought-after film producer
5 £300m; Grovit, Felix. Low-key owner of Chequepoint, chain of bureaux de change. Birth of euro could be threat
6 £200m; Singh, Jasminder and family. Their Edwardian group one of biggest UK independent hoteliers
6= £200m; Singh, Tom. Started New Look womenswear retailer in 1969 with cash borrowed from parents. Floated for £330m last summer
8 £150m; Madhvani, Manubhai and family. Exiled from Ugandan in 1972, built up sugar, brewing and tea plantation conglomerate
9 £120m; Lalvani, Gulu. Left Karachi as student to set up Binatone electronics company. Once took Diana, Princess of Wales, to nightclub. Link between Labour and Asian community
9= £120m; Pervez, Sir Anwar. Farmer's son from Rawalpindi. Came to England in 1956 and became a bus conducter. Built Bestway cash-and-carry
11 £113m; Patel, Bhikhu & Vijay. Pharmacy chain
12 £100m; Chandaria, Ratilal. Chemical and plastic group
12= £100m; Mohsan, Tahir. Mail-order computers
12= £100m; Shivdasani, Sonu. Industrial conglomerate
12= £100m; Thakrar, Rasiklal. Ciro Citterio fashion chain
16 £90m; Jatania, Mike. Lornamead hair and skin-care
17 £85m; Puri, Nat. Engineering
18 £72m; Mughal, Humayan. Computer group
19 £70m; Thakrar, Rashmi. Rice imports
20 £61m; Caan, James. Recruitment consultant
21 £60m; Ahmed, Iqbal. Shrimp processing
21= £60m; Ahmed, Shami. Joe Bloggs fashion
21= £60m; Lord Bagri and Apurv Bagri. Metal trading
21= £60m; Ghirra, Gurcharan. Bon Marche fashion chain
25 £50m; Kumar, Rajan. Fashion labels.
26 £40m; Noon, Gulam. Food production
26= £40m; Patel, Naresh and Mahesh. Europa food retailers
28 £36m; Matto, John. Textiles
29 £35m; Dharamshi, Shirazali. Property and paper
29= £35m; Musry, Nissim. Textiles
29= £35m; Rola, Anil. Textiles
29= £35m; Sandhu, Amarjit. Textiles
29= £35m; Suterwalla, Fakhruddin. Food processing
29= £35m; Warsi, Perween. Food manufacturing
35= £30m; Bhatia, Gulshen. Hotels
35= £30m; Dhillon, Tej & Bobby. Hotels
35= £30m; Pathak, Kirit & Meena. Spices
35= £30m; Rasul, Maq. Retailing
35 £30m; Sachdev, Ramesh. Healthcare
35= £30m: Sahni, Jatti & Avneet. Computers
35= £30m; Sethia, Nirmal. Property
35= £30m; Varma, Mosi. Rice production
43 £28m; Alimahomed, Abdul. Packaging
43= £28m; Rana, Diljit. Property and hotels
45 £26m; Bhatti, Abdul. Food distribution
45= £26m; Chaudhary, Adalat. Food distribution
45= £26m; Sheikh, Mohammed. Food distribution
48 £25m; Chandaria, Dinesh. Paper
48= £25m; Shah, Anant & Vipin. Banking

Little wonder is a big shock for auctioneers

'Minor' painting valued at £800 was unknown Gainsborough gem, reports Dalya Alberge

A SMALL painting that Christie's labelled as the work of a minor 19th-century artist, worth no more than £800, has been identified as a previously unknown landscape by Thomas Gainsborough worth at least £80,000.

The 18th-century work was spotted by Angus Neill, director of Felder Fine Art in London, who said: "I knew it was the best picture I'd ever seen in my life. I'm astounded that a picture of this quality should have been overlooked."

He acted on his instincts and bought the painting at auction, when rivalry from four other bidders took the price to £30,000. His find, which measures about 22.8cm by 19cm, has now been acclaimed by Gainsborough experts although there is disagreement on how high its value may go. Mr Neill claims that it could ultimately fetch £500,000.

He believes that it is among works mentioned in the will of Gainsborough's wife and left to her daughter, Margaret. Two of them, the same size as this example, are in the Tate Gallery. "It's a very beautiful, simple composition of a wooded landscape with country house and two figures," Mr Neill said. "It was a highly personal and intimate picture painted for the family. They must be the tiniest figures he ever painted, just a few millimetres tall." Rica Jones, conservator of paintings at the Tate, described it as "a ravishingly beautiful painting".

Mr Neill's research showed that the painting had surfaced in 1856 in the collection of Wynn Ellis, who left several works to the National Gallery: "He didn't know it was Gainsborough and consigned it to Christie's in 1856. It was then miscatalogued as a James Arthur O'Connor." Last April, he said, it was with auctioneers in Newbury and classed as 19th-century, Continental School. "It was bought by a dealer for £200 who then consigned it to Christie's South Kensington," Mr Neill said. He bought it last July. "Their catalogue said it was by Thomas Churchyard, estimated at £600 to £800."

Hugh Belsey, curator of Gainsborough's House in Sudbury, Suffolk, described it as "a very attractive little picture" which he would like to add to the museum, where the two Tate pictures are on loan.

John Hayes, former Director of the National Portrait Gallery and a Gainsborough scholar, described the painting as "a beautiful little work — a perfectly genuine early work". He thought its value was closer to £80,000.

Mr Neill pointed out that a small 18th-century painting by Alexander Cozens, "with a similar gem-like quality", came up for sale at Sotheby's last year. It was estimated at £50,000 to £70,000 and fetched more than £400,000. "That's what they go for: people are not after names but quality. This painting has never been published. It is completely fresh."

Coming to Christie's defence, Dr Hayes said that so many paintings came "hurtling" through the firm's salerooms that "it is easy to overlook these things". A spokeswoman for Christie's South Kensington said: "We cannot comment this far after the sale."

98
ATTRIBUTED TO THOMAS CHURCHYARD (1798-1865)
A Country House in a wooded Landscape
indistinctly inscribed (on the stretcher)
oil on paper laid down on canvas
9 x 7½in. (22.8 x 19cm.)
£600-800

Christie's listing: wrong price, wrong artist, wrong century

RICHARD CANNON



Angus Neill with his find: "I knew it was the best picture I had seen in my life"

Husband who exposed drugs ring is found dead

By Russell Jenkins

A LORRY driver who was praised for his role in smashing a drugs smuggling ring has apparently killed himself after fearing that his wife had left him to take up drugs again.

Christopher Brooker, 50, became an informant because his 34-year-old wife, a mother of five, was a heroin addict and he had seen at first hand the effects of hard drugs on family life. With a £10,000 price on his head, he was helped to assume a new life in a safe house but he soon returned home to Hurstead, near Rochdale.

Greater Manchester Police said that Mr Brooker was found by officers dead on his bed last week. There were no suspicious circumstances. A letter sent to *The Rochdale Observer* before his body was found made clear that he wanted to kill himself because his wife had left him. He claimed that she had returned to a "life of drugs".

In September 1997 Mr Brooker tipped off the authorities when he was offered £20,000 to ferry heroin, cocaine and amphetamines worth £2 million from Belgium for sale in Manchester's nightclubs. He telephoned an information hotline saying: "I don't care about the money. I just hate drugs and I want to stand up to those who profit from them."

Customs and Excise officers tracked the drugs across Europe to an industrial estate near Rochdale, where they moved in. After the arrests Mr Brooker went into hiding with his wife, under a new identity, and lived in fear of revenge. His evidence to Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, in December helped to send the five-man gang to jail for a total of 31 years. An inquest will be held into Mr Brooker's death.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New lawyers ordered for bomb-plot Britons

The Yemeni judge who is trying eight British Muslims on bomb-plot charges ruled yesterday that they must have a new defence team after their lawyers boycotted the court. Judge [illegible] told the defendants that their lawyers must be Yemenis but assured the men that their new representatives would not side with the prosecution.

The seven-member defence team quit on March 27, protesting that they were not allowed to meet their clients privately in prison in Aden. Judge Omar said it was "not legal for the defendants to keep lawyers who refused to come to court". The defendants told the court that they wanted their British lawyers to choose a new team. "We are foreigners, we don't know Arabic and do not know Yemeni laws, so we are afraid," Malik Harhra, one of the accused, said. The judge accepted that the defendants were free to select their lawyers, but insisted that they be Yemenis. (AFP)

'Roof climber' killed

The boyfriend of Lord Rees-Mogg's daughter Annunziata died of head injuries after falling from the drainpipe of her fifth-floor flat in Pall Mall, London. James Sanders, 24, a student, was believed to have been indulging in his hobby of roof climbing, a form of urban mountaineering. An inquest was opened and adjourned at Westminster Coroner's Court yesterday.

Timely boon for church

Time has finally caught up with a church that is to get a clock 134 years late. Christ Church in Cockermouth, Cumbria, was built in 1865 with a clock tower, stonework for four clock faces and support for a mechanism. But money ran out and the tower was left without a clock. Two parishioners, David Hill and Tony Wareing, have now offered to pay for the timepiece. The electronic clock, which has no chimes, should in place by early summer.

Male police 'mafia' claim

Two women detective constables claimed yesterday they were hounded out of the Lancashire Constabulary by a secret male group known as the East Lancs Mafia. Caroline Arrowsmith and Laura Borman told an employment tribunal in Manchester that they were subjected to lewd language and offensive comments. They are claiming compensation for sex discrimination. A solicitor for the police force said the action would be vigorously defended.

Rower takes on Pacific

A man with severe epilepsy is to attempt to row across the Pacific singlehanded. Andrew Halsey, 41, of Bloomsbury, London, leaves California next month and hopes to arrive in Sydney in eight months. Because of his epilepsy Mr Halsey, who also has a disabled leg, will be permanently strapped to his boat, named [illegible] after his daughter. He will take a harmonica and penny whistle for entertainment.

Donkey dies at 55

A donkey believed to be the oldest in Britain has died at 55 — 30 years after it was saved from the knacker's yard. Its former owner, [illegible], bought Zebedee for £20 [illegible]. Zebedee has been cared for at [illegible], where it spent the last 19 years in retirement.


CALL ME.

هكذا من الاصل

Beijing smiles amid spy row

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN WASHINGTON

A CHARM offensive in the US by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Mininster, hit its first serious obstacle yesterday, despite a vaunted breakthrough on trade, when the Energy Department abruptly announced it was stopping scientific work on computers at three nuclear weapons laboratories after allegations that China has stolen secret nuclear technology.

The espionage row is only one of several tense issues hanging over the nine-day visit by Mr Zhu, the first by a Chinese Prime Minister in 15 years. Since President Clinton's breakthrough trip to China last summer, relations have steadily deteriorated, with disputes over human rights, China's vast trade deficit and most recently the bombardment of Yugoslavia.

Following Mr Zhu's arrival in Washington yesterday, Mr Clinton delivered a conciliatory address in which he said that bringing China into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was firmly in the interests of the US.

Mr Zhu also tried to start his tour in Los Angeles on a jocular and positive note, announcing the lifting of a ban on some US agricultural products as a "breakthough" in negotiations for Beijing to join the WTO and joking about the spying charges.

The 70-year-old Chinese Prime Minister, who will visit six American cities, told a California audience of China's plans to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the People's Republic next October with a display of the latest military technology, and drew astonished gasps by adding: "These weapons were developed by China itself, not stolen from the US."

Mr Zhu's wit appeared somewhat misplaced, however, when *The New York Times* reported the suspension of scientific work on computers at nuclear weapons laboratories in Los Alamos, Sandia and Lawrence-Livermore. Thousands of scientists reliant on the computers containing the most secret files would cease normal work and instead attend training courses on computer security, officials said.

Last March Wen Ho Lee, a Taiwanese-born scientist at Los Alamos, was fired for allegedly breaching security at the laboratory after a three-year investigation by the FBI.

At a banquet, Mr Zhu dismissed the growing crop of disputes as "nothing more than a small episode in the long history of friendly relations between China and the US". To begin his tour in the right vein, Mr Zhu announced a lifting of the ban on wheat imports from seven US states and citrus fruits from four states.

"This agreement is the most important part of China's bid to enter the WTO," Mr Zhu said, adding that he was confident that other areas of disagreement would be ironed out to allow China into the body regulating international trade.

China has been seeking admission to the WTO for 13 years, and Mr Clinton struck a similar note of optimism about the chances of reaching an agreement, although the White House said "substantial" gaps remained.


REED SAXON / AP

A Chinese interpreter joins the laughter at a joke by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, during a welcoming reception in Los Angeles

Scholars pinpoint lost Galilee village

Jerusalem: As up to four million pilgrims prepare for a millennium visit to the Holy Land, a site has been identified close to the Sea of Galilee that will enable them to transport themselves back to the time of Jesus (Christopher Walker writes).

The Jerusalem Post reported that a mound 1½ miles north of the sea has been accepted "by a growing scholarly consensus" as the site of the lost village of Bethsaida.

Abraham Rabinovich, an archaelogy expert, wrote: "The village was home to at least three of the 12 apostles."

Bethsaida is associated in the Gospels with Christ's healing of a blind man and the miracle of the "feeding of the multitudes". Many regard it as a more authentic site for pilgrims than the gimmicky proposal to allow them to "walk on the water" on a pier just below the surface of the Sea of Galilee at Capernaum.

Fugitive Russian tycoon 'to return'

FROM ANNA BLUNDY
IN MOSCOW

BORIS BEREZOVSKY, the fugitive Russian billionaire and former Kremlin power-broker, said yesterday that he would return to Moscow next week to see prosecutors and did not fear being detained despite an arrest warrant against him.

Mr Berezovsky, who is wanted on corruption charges, told a news conference at a Paris hotel that he blamed a warrant issued for his arrest on Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister.

He said he had no quarrel with President Yeltsin, but feared that Mr Primakov was attempting improperly to use his post to influence Mr Yeltsin, the media and the Russian secret services.

Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General who was suspended by Mr Yeltsin last week, confirmed that warrants had been issued for Mr Berezovsky's arrest.

The billionaire was dismissed as executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States last week. He said the authorities stopped his private plane from entering Russian air space, preventing him from attending the meeting.

It is widely assumed that the warrant for Mr Berezovsky's arrest, and that of Aleksandr Smolensky, creator of the bank SBS-Agro, also announced this week, is linked to the power struggle between the Government and Mr Skuratov. Mr Smolensky is in Austria.

One of the main charges against Mr Berezovsky concerns his dealings with Aeroflot. Millions of pounds of the airline's profits are said to have been hidden in a Swiss bank account under the name of a company called Andava.

Valeri Okulov, the Director of Aeroflot and Mr Yeltsin's son-in-law, has so far co-operated with investigations into the case but it will be difficult for him to claim that he was ignorant of the disappearance of such vast sums. If Mr Okulov is implicated, the scandal will directly involve the Yeltsin family and is likely to destabilise Russia's political situation further.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Three Rwandan ex-ministers held

Arusha: Three former Rwandan government ministers implicated in the 1994 genocide of 800,000 people have been arrested exactly five years after the slaughter began, officials at the United Nations tribunal sitting in Tanzania said. The three were arrested in Cameroon. They include Jerome Bicamumpaka, the former Foreign Minister who justified the murders at the UN, and Justin Mugenzi, the former Commerce Minister, who allegedly urged Hutus in a series of radio broadcasts to "kill all the Tutsis". The third suspect is Prosper Mugiraneza, who ran Rwanda's civil service in the interim government set up in the first days of the genocide. *(Reuters)*

Delayed homecoming

Seoul: A South Korean soldier listed as killed in action during the Korean War has returned home after fleeing the North, the South's National Intelligence Agency said. Sohn Jae Sool, 67, who said he was captured by Chinese troops in 1950, escaped from the North last October and arrived here with his wife, daughter and two North Korean defectors through an unidentified third country. *(AFP)*

Borneo mob fired on

Jakarta: Thousands of Malay and Dayak villagers, demanding the release of those jailed after earlier violence against Madurese migrants, rioted when outnumbered Indonesian forces fired on them. More than a dozen people were killed in Singkawang in Indonesian Borneo. Witnesses said troops fired warning shots but the mob surged forward. In Maluku, eastern Indonesia, religious rioting flared between Christians and Muslims. *(AP)*

Bullets overcome sword

New York: Commuters dived for cover as police shot and wounded a man waving a samurai sword at a crowded railway station (James Bone writes). Charles Stevens, 55, who had stopped taking his medication for schizophrenia, ended a stand-off with police on the Long Island Railroad by lunging at them with a 3ft sword. Police responded by opening fire, hitting Stevens eight times. Five passengers received minor injuries in the incident.

Blast at Franco's tomb

Madrid: An explosion has damaged Franco's tomb in Spain's Valley of the Fallen, a huge mausoleum carved out of a hillside near here, a fire brigade official said. No one was hurt in the blast, which damaged the area around the altar. The Marxist guerrilla group, October First Anti-Fascist Resistance Group (Grapo), claimed responsibility for the attack. *(Reuters)*

Hun Sen backs down

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, the Cambodian Prime Minister, said the country would allow foreign judges and prosecutors to take part in the trial of the Khmer Rouge leader, Ta Mok, to ensure the process meets international standards. The new policy reverses his earlier stand that a trial must be under Cambodian law even though the judicial system is not up to the task. *(Reuters)*

Police aim to please

New York: The Big Apple's gun-toting police will in future be yelling: "Freeze, please" (James Bone writes). Amid growing protests about police brutality, the New York Police Department has launched a politeness drive and ordered officers to carry a card reminding them to call members of the public "Mr" or "Ma'am", and to address teenagers as "young lady" or "young man".





Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on new treatment for scarring; why the solar eclipse in August is worrying ophthalmologists; Bruce Chatwin and the truth about his fungal disease; the benefits of eating tomatoes; and research that links long-term oesophagitis and cancer

Healing the scars of war

The recent *Times* headline "Air raids scar city of culture on the Danube" applies not only to the damaged bridges of Novi Sad but also to the human casualties. It is easier to restore the burnt bridges and houses that have been burnt than it is to recreate the various layers — the epidermis and dermis — that form human skin.

Regrettably, many of those burnt or wounded will be scarred for life but war casualties of the future may fare better thanks to research being conducted in Britain. An application for a patent for burns treatment being processed in London may ultimately benefit — through restoration of their appearance — those who suffer burns during wartime.

A research team directed by Dr Claire Linge, working for the charity RAFT (Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust) at Mount Vernon Hospital in Middlesex, has applied for a patent for a secret remedy for hypertrophic (overgrown) scarring — the type of scarring that affects 30 per cent of adult burns victims and between 40 and 60 per cent of children who suffer similar injuries. Scarring, though, is not confined to burn damage; other causes include accidents, surgery and even skin diseases, including acne. Nearly three million people in the UK have a facial scar, and a similar number have one more than six inches long. More than two million have scars that upset them.

Once the British team has obtained the patent rights, it hopes to start on further experimental work. Within two or three years this should lead to clinical trials and, later, the introduction of modified treatment that will give victims who would otherwise have had red, raised, itchy, painful and disfiguring scars less unsightly flat white ones.

The most common cause of serious scarring is surgery; it gives rise to 37 per cent of all significant scars, with the most prevalent site being the abdomen. Most people can remember inspecting the scars of schoolmates who had returned from hospital, but the surgeon is interested, too, and is apt to exhibit his handiwork to those prepared to pause by the bedside.

> The most common cause of serious scarring is surgery

The best surgeons leave the neatest scars but they may be defeated by a patient's skin type. If a patient has a tendency to have a hypertrophic scar — red and raised rather than flat and white — not much can be done about it. The injection of a corticosteroid, triamcinolone acetonide, may flatten some, while various forms of Silastic gel sheeting may make them less prominent.

A small percentage of patients have been helped by more exotic treatments. Recently a doctor in India tried injecting papaya juice into these scars. It was a small, uncontrolled trial but the juice seemed to be effective in reducing the scar in some, but not all, of the cases. The long-term effect is unknown.

There seems to be no definable genetic reason why some people develop hypertrophic scars and others do not, and in some patients only part of the scar may be hypertrophic; in a long scar there may be a comparatively scarless break in its continuity.

There is, however, another form of unattractive scarring, keloid scarring, which is genetic and affects certain races. In some races, more than 70 per cent of those injured form keloid (from the Greek meaning "tumour-like") scars. This is a hypertrophic scar gone mad.

The keloid scar is red and raised, shiny and hard, and it grows and grows, extending beyond the original cut or puncture wound. Dr Linge knew of one case in which a young girl had her ear lobe pierced and ended up with a lump of scar tissue the size of a tennis ball. She hopes that the new Mount Vernon treatment might be extended to help keloid sufferers and wants to secure funding for this research.

● *RAFT, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 2RN. Telephone: 01923 835815. Scar Information Service, PO Box 2003, Hull, HU3 4DJ. Telephone: 0845 1200022.*


REUTERS

Proper eye protection is essential for anyone watching the total eclipse in August. The naked eye can suffer serious damage from looking directly at the Sun

Protect your eyes to view eclipse

THIS year August 11 has a greater significance than simply being my grandson's birthday. It is the day when a full solar eclipse may be viewed in Cornwall, the first time in the UK for more than 70 years, and the last time for another 91 years.

The total eclipse will last only two minutes but the period just before and after total eclipse is already causing alarm among ophthalmologists. The Institute of Ophthalmology linked to Moorfields Eye Hospital, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, the Royal College of Ophthalmology, the Royal Greenwich Observatory, the Department of Health and a host of other organisations are doing their best to reduce the incidence of eye damage, which seems as inevitable as burns on Guy Fawkes night.

The organisation Fight for Sight, which was launched at the Institute of Ophthalmology, is flying over an American schoolboy as a terrible example of how sight can be lost by not taking precautions. He used a viewing device, previously recommended, to see a partial eclipse of the Sun last year in North Carolina. It gave inadequate protection and he now has a sight-destroying black scar on the retina of his left eye.

A BBC weather forecaster, also worried about eye injury, wanted to demonstrate, when we last had a partial eclipse in the UK, the damage which could be done to a sheep's eye. It was considered too gruesome to broadcast.

Over-exposure to the Sun's rays causes two types of damage: photochemical, also known as phototoxicity, and photothermal retinal injury. Phototoxicity is the result of exposure to excessive ultraviolet light: it can be temporary. Photothermal retinal injury is the result of infra-red damage in which photo-coagulation destroys the rods and cones of the retina, leaving permanent scarring.

At the moment there is no accepted treatment. If the viewer looks straight at the Sun, damage is done to the fovea, the part of the eye that we use when recognising people, watching their lips as they talk, or when reading or driving.

Aids victim: writer Bruce Chatwin

Rare fungus that caught up with Chatwin

THE recent biography and revealing TV film of the writer Bruce Chatwin explored his approach to HIV and Aids, and his refusal for a long while to admit to suffering from anything worse than a mysterious Chinese fungal disease.

In fact Chatwin was not lying: he did suffer from a fungus, *Penicillium marneffei*, which was rare at the time he caught it. It was associated with South-East Asia and was only occasionally seen in Europe. Chatwin wrote about his experiences in a British clinic and there was apparently amazement when the fungus was first isolated from his skin lesions. The microbiologists, used to identifying common fungi from between cracked toes, thrush, or occasional Aspergillus from a case of farmer's lung, were astounded by what they saw beneath their microscope. To the question "I don't suppose that you have been haymaking in South China recently?" the very English patient of a very English clinic replied: "I was there only last week."

Like any fungal infection, *Penicillium marneffei* in an immuno-compromised patient can spread from the skin. On TV an infected patch was obvious on Chatwin's face, but this can give rise to a deep systemic infection, almost impossible to eradicate in the immuno-compromised — as in his case. As with any opportunistic fungal infection, it may penetrate the blood and be carried to other sites. The patient is likely to suffer from pneumonia, urinary tract infections and diarrhoea from gut complications. The skin lesions are white and raised, they may be papillomatous or may resemble the blistery spots of *Molluscum contagiosum*, a viral skin disease that may be spread sexually and flourishes on thin, sensitive skin, or the fine skin of children.

Penicillium marneffei has spread rapidly among HIV sufferers in South-East Asia and is commonly seen in dermatological and genito-urinary clinics, for instance, as an opportunistic infection in those patients whose resistance, and white blood count, is lowered. It has travelled a long way from South China.

It's true, tomatoes really do you good

Simultaneous, contradictory views concerning tomatoes, one piece written in this column, and one elsewhere by a nutritionist, generated a surprising amount of correspondence from confused readers.

Rest assured, there is sound scientific evidence to support the nutritional value of tomatoes and their constituent lycopene, an antioxidant that is present in abundance. This should certainly prevent tomatoes being condemned along with caffeine and tobacco.

Lycopene is a powerful antioxidant. Oxidisation can be destructive, for instance when, in the form of rust, it destroys elegant, unprotected wrought-iron gates that have stood for centuries. People are not always aware that oxidative damage can occur in the fragile, vulnerable cells of the human body as a result of the action of the oxygen in free radicals. Free radicals are highly active atoms, or groups of atoms, capable of damaging DNA in cells and even the fat of the cell membranes.

The role of antioxidants in foods, such as those found in vitamins C and E, and polyphenols, flavonoids like lycopene and some minerals including selenium and zinc, is to counteract free radicals. Antioxidants therefore contribute to a longer, better quality of life by inhibiting the production of atheroma, the fatty substance within arteries that clog the channels, and by reducing malignancies.

Lycopene gives the colour to tomatoes, pink grapefruit, watermelon and guava. It is more readily available to the body once tomatoes have been cooked or processed. If it is true that Harold Wilson, the former Prime Minister, really did love ketchup, he certainly didn't deserve to develop cancer because, weight for weight, tomato ketchup is second only to pasta sauce as the richest source of lycopene. A glass of tomato juice contains more lycopene than a whole bowlful of tomato soup. Alcohol encourages the absorption of some flavonoids and so it is possible that a Bloody Mary may be more nutritious than neat tomato juice.

Many antioxidants are found in fruit and vegetables and the general rule is that the brighter the colour, whether rich green, deep orange or dark red, the better they are likely to be in their cardioprotective and anti-cancer role. Research has shown that people with high levels of lycopene were only half as likely to have a coronary thrombosis as those with low levels.

Recent research in the United States shows that ten large servings a week of tomato sauce halves the incidence of cancer of the prostate. A new study financed by Heinz, which is understandably delighted by the effect of tomato sauce on the heart and prostate, is investigating the potential role of tomatoes in preventing cancers of the digestive tract and breast.


TESSA TRAEGER

Regular helpings of tomatoes help to protect fragile cells

Indigestion and the link to cancer

THE gardener who has indigestion when he stoops to weed the border, or the older overweight patient who suffers from heartburn, with reflux of stomach acid into his throat when lying flat after a meal, should take these minor afflictions more seriously.

Recently the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the British journal *Pulse* have reported on Swedish research which showed that a person who has gastro-oesophageal reflux and heartburn once a week was seven times more likely to develop a cancer of the oesophagus (gullet) than a control group matched for age and other variables.

If this wasn't alarming enough for those who have to be wary of eating large meals late at night or of being too vigorous after a meal, the research uncovered a more disturbing result. Patients with "longstanding, severe symptoms" of oesophagitis were 43 times more likely to suffer from cancer of the oesophagus. Before indigestion sufferers rush to demand examinations, they should realise that the study involved only a small group of patients.

Even so, the journal suggests that those with recurrent severe symptoms deserve investigation with endoscopy and biopsy. Treatment of GORD, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, persisting despite weight loss and other conservative measures, has been immeasurably improved by the introduction of the proton pump inhibitors.

Every nerve in me screams 'it hurts'



In the final extract from his book, **Chris Moon** describes learning to use his new arm and leg and how he overcame pain and exhaustion to complete the London Marathon


Chris Moon feeding his son, Gordon: making things with Meccano proved a good way of practising to use the hook

Have you seen that game where prizes are laid out in a big Perspex cylinder and you try to clutch them with a little grab crane?

Using the hook is just like that. The false arm fits over the stump. It's a nice fleshy colour with a steel ratchet end fitting where the hook clips in. The hook is held on by straps and works like a lever, with a cable linked to a band around my left shoulder. The jaws open when I stretch out my arm and thick rubber bands force them closed when my body relaxes, taking tension off the cable.

LAST NIGHT the nurse picked out the stitches from the large scabby scar below my knee. Next week the physio thinks they'll be able to take a cast and make my new leg.

The occupational therapist asks: "Would you like to make something with the Meccano? It's a good way to practise using the hook." I spend the next hour constructing a lorry.

The next day is Sunday. Most of the others have gone home for the weekend. After breakfast I turn on the TV to watch the London Marathon, see the magic moments of people of all ages doing their best. Some are in tears as they finish. As I watch them pound the streets I know that next year I must do the marathon.

At 3.30 I prepare to go out alone for the first time. I push myself over the ramp and through the gate. It's important to me to get round on my own. I roll down the drive and along the pavement; as I reach the kerb something happens that I hadn't anticipated — I'm terrified. It's a drop of only a few inches but I haven't done anything like this before. Perhaps I should get somebody to help me. The street is empty. If I do fall out, I think I'll be able to get back in on my own but don't want anybody to see. I stick my leg down and let the wheelchair drop. I make it and get up the other side by turning the wheels backwards. When I get back to the hospital I go to bed early.

I'M HAVING the first leg fitting! I slip a sock over the stump and put it into the moulded white foam socket. Then I push it into the false leg and do up the leather strap above the knee. John, the prosthetist, makes a mark on the top of the false leg and asks: "How does it feel?"

"Fine. Can I try it?" I stand up. John checks the leg. My heart tells me to try to run. My head tells me to take it easy.

I take slow, small steps and grip the bar with my left hand. I step forward carefully. When I put the false leg down the pressure feels uncomfortable. I gradually gain confidence and improve slightly. I soon graduate to using the two sticks and get out of the bars.

I walk a little farther each day and practise my gait. I still have a limp. They say it will take months to get it right. If the consultant thinks the scar has healed sufficiently and the leg fits, I can go home soon. "What about running?" I ask.

"In some cases it's possible, but it will take time. Without a lower leg, you require 30 per cent more energy to walk. When it comes to running, the stress and pressure through the stump are enormous."

At last my discharge day arrives: April 28. I've done it. I'm out in less than two months.

THE sound of splashing echoes around the vast concrete building. I walk cautiously along the tiles by the side of the pool. By the deep end are some benches. That would be the best place to take my leg off. I should be able to hop to the side from there. On my right is a woman with her daughter. As I go past she holds the girl's hand and says "Sshh . . ."

I reach the bench and sit down awkwardly. I put the towel down. Now they can all see I haven't got a hand either. I pull the leg off. I don't want to risk standing up. I try crawling but the tiles are too hard on the stumps. I edge back to the bench and push myself up with my left hand, driving my left leg up. I jump up the last bit and wobble like a flamingo in a force ten gale.

I turn the wobble into forward motion and shuffle across the tiles. It takes all my concentration. When I near the edge my foot slips slightly. I crawl the last metre. I never knew it was possible to feel more naked than naked. I get to the edge of the pool and sit with my left leg in the water. It will be over my head. But I want to go in at the deep end.

I look up and realise the whole place is silent. Two ladies are swimming towards me, their eyes locked on to my stumps. The other swimmers paddle and watch. I try to throw myself into the water. Instead I slip in and sink: it's deeper than I thought.

I kick and paddle to the surface and take a deep breath. I try treading water. It feels strange but it's not difficult. Now I'll try breaststroke. Problem is, I tend to go round in circles. I adapt my stroke and head down the pool towards the two dragons. As I pass them I say: "Good morning, ladies." They smile. "Well done! You're doing tremendously."

Marathon Moon: Chris finished in 5hr, 39min

One day I get up just after seven. I'm going to try a long walk with a short run. I'm going to do two miles. I walk through the village to the track that leads to the Downs. When I reach the wood I focus on the gate. I promised myself I'd run to it. I move my legs up and down. When I put the false leg down I get no response; I keep trying, the stump feels sore and gets sorer. It's not easy, takes everything I've got. I stop at the gate. That was harder than an eight-mile hill run.

I'M GOING to run again! Twice a week to begin with. I'll fast walk and then jog one length of the football pitch alternately for 15 minutes and then try to jog all around the outside to finish. It's sensible to start gently: all my muscles have wasted.

I walk to the edge of the field and prepare to burst into action; a leopard poised to race across the veld. The reality, sadly, is closer to a three-legged dog trying to make it to the nearest lamppost. Disappointment engulfs me. Every nerve screams "it hurts": instinct tells me to lie on the grass and cry my eyes out. How will I do a marathon?

I rest for a few days, then have another go. I'm 25 seconds faster than last time! As I head for home the leg slips and I fall. The lanyard cord has broken, the leg has shot into the road. A bus is speeding towards me, near the kerb. I wave. "Please God, don't let it run over my leg."

It works. I pick it up, hop to a wall and examine the lanyard fitting. I can't fix it so I put my stump back in the socket and hold it on with my good hand as I walk slowly home.

I'M NOT sorry I have to go to London to get the leg repaired. It gives me a chance to see Alison. She understands my attitude to life and never tells me I can't do things.

On Sundays we usually go for a walk. Today we're driving to woodland to see the autumn leaves. As we walk between the beech trees I think how good it is to be alive. We hold hands and I struggle to keep up but she knows I don't want her to slow down. As we turn a corner she smiles at the chocolate box view of a village. As I look into her eyes I think, I'd like to grow old with her.

We emerge near a tea shop. As we wait for our tea I rest my false arm on the table. It's held on partly by suction and as I move it makes a sound like a loud fart. The place goes quiet. The woman at the next table whispers to her husband "Disgusting".

"I'm sorry," I tell Alison. "It does that all the time."

The man at the next table spits out his tea and giggles uncontrollably. I feel a need to explain further so I pull the arm off slightly and press it on the chair hard: the noise is even louder. The bloke spits out another mouthful of tea and starts everyone laughing. Alison is laughing, too. She's definitely the girl for me.

From late January I run with Alison every Sunday. She slows down so I can keep up. When I get back from a run I'm too exhausted to do anything but sleep. By late March the farthest I've run is seven miles. Will I manage 26.2?

ALISON leans over the barrier, kisses me and says "Good luck". I kiss her back. "Thanks. I'd better get going." I move into the crowd before she sees my fear. Nobody else could notice but she might. Around me is a wall of runners, nearly 40,000.

Way ahead the starting gun booms and a cheer ripples back through the runners. We walk forward and gradually accelerate to a jog. Even by my standards this is slow.

As we leave Greenwich the road slopes downhill. I make use of the incline to increase my pace. People along the pavement shout encouragement. I'm covered in sweat and I've only done five miles. All my energy goes into putting one foot in front of the other. I feel sick.

One foot in front of the other; ignore the discomfort. This is the fastest I've ever done nine miles. I'm flying.

A sign up ahead says ten miles. The pain has started. I try to ignore it. I can't feel the stump. I must check it. I lean against a lamppost and undo the strap holding on the leg. I take it out of the socket and massage the stump. After a few seconds the pain subsides.

I see the Thames. Tower Bridge must be close. Up until now I've enjoyed the run. Now I'm knackered.

I'm not giving up. As I cross Tower Bridge I hear Alison: "Go on Chris. Go for it!"

All I want to do is lie down and sleep. I move as if I'm running through treacle.

We're nearly there. I can push with everything I've got now. I'll soon be able to stop. I force my tired legs onwards. I take deep breaths. We turn into The Mall, where there is a sea of people. I try to encourage the other runners: "Go for it, we're nearly there!"

People are cheering. For a moment the pain vanishes. I make a dash for the finish. Five hours, 39 minutes. People cheer. I see Alison. She kisses me and says: "Well done. That's one of this year's goals achieved. What's next?"

I lean on her, glad to take some of the weight off my false leg. "How about getting married in August?"

She smiles and says "Yes".

● *Extracted from* One Step Beyond *by Chris Moon, published by Macmillan, £16.99.* Times *readers can buy it for £14.99 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990-134 459*

Gordon's Man Friday goes north

English spies will find little to intrigue in the Scots elections

I rather fancy Charlie Whelan as the Daniel Defoe of his day. Gordon Brown's sometime press adviser has come to Scotland to cover the elections as a journalist and commentator. Most people suspect he may still be acting as the Chancellor's eyes and ears — a gatherer of intelligence about the state of the nation as well as a discreet propagandist for his former master.

In much the same way did Defoe travel north in 1706, a year before the Act of Union, following a Whelan-style fall from grace. The author of *Moll Flanders* and *Robinson Crusoe* had begun his career as a sort of 18th-century spin-doctor, a familiar figure in the corridors of power who incurred the displeasure of the Government by publishing a scurrilous pamphlet that leaked hostile information about establishment figures.

Defoe paid a rather stiffer price for his indiscretions than Whelan did for dishing the dirt on Peter Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson: he was sentenced to stand in the pillory, pay a fine, and be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure in Newgate Prison. He eventually negotiated his release by cleverly suggesting a new role for himself — passing clandestine information on the forthcoming Union between England and Scotland to Robert Harley, later Earl of Oxford and the leading statesman of his time.

I doubt if Mr Whelan will have as exciting a time as his predecessor. Within days of arriving, Defoe was watching the mobs storm through the streets of Edinburgh, protesting against constitutional change. "A terrible multitude came up the High Street . . . shouting and swearing and crying out all Scotland would stand together. No Union, No Union, English dogs and the like," he wrote. He added that he was risking his life by being there and that "a Scots rabble is the worst of its kind". Defoe, it seemed, favoured the tabloid approach to journalism.

Mr Whelan's approach is likely to be a little more restrained. For one thing, he will see no violent protests on the streets; indeed he will be lucky to find the mob stirred to any greater action than switching channels on its TV sets when it comes around to news time. The various campaigns launched this week seem likely to revolve around issues so well-rehearsed that they have long since ironed out any lingering ability to surprise or alarm. When, during yesterday's press conference, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Jim Wallace, announced that one of his party's distinctive policies would be to improve disabled access, he conceded that this might not mean "storming the barricades". A sudden image surfaced, then sadly receded, of massed wheelchairs surging through the capital.

The fact is that these Scottish elections, despite reinstating a parliament in Edinburgh and ushering in the greatest constitutional reform of the century, have not yet broken the traditional pattern of a Westminster campaign. The Scottish National Party has staked its claim to the left-wing vote by announcing its intention to raise a penny more in tax, spending it on health, education and housing. Its leader, Alex Salmond, has predicted that "Scotland's penny" would rally support from disillusioned Labour supporters, and has issued a postcard with ten promises — similar to Tony Blair's election credit card, which carried five. There is little here to inject real drama: it runs from spending more on schoolbooks to abolishing the tolls on the Skye Bridge. It downgrades the party's single most distinctive policy — independence — to tenth place, a sign, perhaps, of Mr Salmond's anxiety not to frighten the electorate with anything too radical.

Labour, operating a Millbank-style campaign from its Glasgow headquarters, is also anxious not to rock the boat. Its poll rating has recovered significantly in the past few weeks, and it seems likely to rely more on warning Scots about the dangers of nationalism than making extravagant promises about the powers of a new parliament. Yesterday's main revelation was that the party intends to seize the assets of drug barons, hardly the most challenging of ideas.

Only the Tories, revelling in the freedom that stems from a total power vacuum, can afford to be adventurous. They have come up with the most radical proposal so far — a commitment to remove control of schools from local authority, education departments and devolve their management to school boards. Their chances of implementing it, however, despite the opportunities offered by proportional representation, remain minimal.

Magnus Linklater

It has been left to the Balkans, an area where the remit of a Scottish parliament is unlikely to run, to inject any real life into this lacklustre affair. A radio debate between the four leaders on Tuesday turned venomous when Mr Salmond proposed pulling Nato out of the Kosovo conflict and imposing an oil embargo. Donald Dewar, for Labour, accused him of advocating policies that would lead to the extermination of the Albanians in Kosovo. Listeners polled by the radio station expressed more passion about the refugees than they did about any Scottish issue.

These are, of course, early days, and Mr Whelan may have more to report as the battle buses parade their election messages about the country. But he is unlikely to reach any more startling conclusion than the one that Defoe reported back to Harley 293 years ago: a United Kingdom which preserved the separate identities of the Scots and the English while drawing them closer together would, he said, "preserve not destroy; secure not endanger; confirm not undermine". It was no more thrilling to read then than it is today. But it made just as much sense.

comment@the-times.co.uk

"THESE MEDIA INSULTS PLAY RIGHT INTO MILOSEVIC'S HANDS..."

Target Milosevic

Nato leaders deserve better from their critics. But the West must escalate the war, says **David Hart**

A thoroughly dangerous line of argument is beginning to emerge from the fog of the Balkans war. Some, mainly conservative, commentators, both here and in the United States, are arguing, directly or by implication, that Nato should not be acting against President Milosevic. Some simply support the Serbs and think that they should be allowed to bring stability to the region, however brutally. These commentators have been less active since the pictures of the hopeless refugees have been filling our television screens. Others argue that Nato will fail in its attempt to coerce Mr Milosevic and that the West's actions will lead to the demise of the world's most successful military alliance.

These critics' motives cannot be certain, and may be as stated, but it is hard not to believe that some of them may be uneasy at the prospect of centre-left politicians like Bill Clinton and Tony Blair achieving a military success.

If Nato does fail, the future of the alliance will be in doubt. But so will the system of moral values that the Western world upholds. Then these critics will say that they have been vindicated. They will not have been. Instead, they will have become the servants of a re-emergence of barbarism in Europe.

There is no difference, except of scale, between the Nazi extermination of Jews and the ethnic cleansing of the Kosovo Albanians by Mr Milosevic and his colleagues. Let the critics differentiate, if they can, between the horror people felt in 1945 as the true scale and depravity of the Holocaust became clear and the horror we feel today. We witness on our screens the dead bodies of unarmed men, not members of the Kosovan Liberation Army, who have been systematically taken out of their homes and herded into fields and shot, often after their families have given money for their lives to be spared.

There is absolutely no difference in moral degradation between the actions of the murder squads organised by Mr Milosevic and those led by ? Sawoniouk and all the other Nazis and Nazi sympathisers in the Second World War. Both sought material gain from their actions, looting and stealing the property of Jews and Albanians. Both murdered unarmed civilians because of their race. Both display a kind of moral sickness that is irredeemable. If Chamberlain and Daladier had had the courage to act against Hitler, say after Kristalnacht in 1938, many millions of Jews would have survived to live normal lives. It is wholly right that Nato's political leaders, including the Americans and Canadians, have decided at last that barbarity will not be tolerated in Europe.

As soon as the first Nato bombs fell, Mr Milosevic was bound to react. Perhaps the speed and brutality of the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo took some Nato leaders by surprise. But carping about being unprepared to succour the refugees, or about changes in Nato objectives, is very far off the mark.

Mr Milosevic may have made a significant if appalling move in Kosovo; but on the chessboard of conflict it is not the first but the last significant move that counts.

> Milosevic treats the Kosovo Albanians like Hitler treated the Jews

It is clear that Mr Milosevic's actions in Kosovo have changed the strategic environment so that Nato has no option now but to create a protectorate in part, or all, of Kosovo to which the displaced Albanians can, and will, return. That raises the vexed question of the use of Nato ground troops. Nato leaders are agreed that ground troops will be needed to police any settlement that is made with the Serb Government. Nato is ready with a well-prepared plan and some forces are in the area. An opposed Nato incursion into Kosovo is an entirely different matter. It would require something like 200,000 troops and involve significant casualties.

It is understandable that the Americans do not want to commit ground troops to a European war. It took Churchill almost two years and significant help from the Japanese to persuade them to join us in the war against the Nazis. The American public does not yet have the will for a fight far away from home to save people they do not know and who speak a different language. But, if Mr Milosevic cannot be stopped by air power, Nato will either have to face defeat or ground troops will have to be deployed.

We are entering the most dangerous moments of this conflict so far. In the ensuing days the will and courage of Nato's political leaders will be tested, as it has never been tested before. Mr Milosevic has already offered a tactical "ceasefire" this week and he will go on making offers designed to split the alliance. He may well even offer to accept Nato demands. But his record as a keeper of promises is not good. Even so, there will be intense pressure on Nato leaders to agree to a settlement, even if it is an unsatisfactory one.

Mr Milosevic is so steeped in blood that a negotiated settlement is now no longer tenable, unless he surrenders himself and his henchmen as part of the deal. That is a most unlikely outcome. Any conclusion to hostilities that leaves Mr Milosevic where he is and his murder squads in tact, will come to be seen by the Western press and all sensible people as a defeat for Nato. The West has no option. It must escalate the conflict well beyond Mr Milosevic's expectations and calculations. He knows that Western leaders are civilised and do not like conflict. He has been banking on just that. It must be a fundamental figure in his calculations. The destruction of the Milosevic leadership must now become the principle objective of Nato military action. Nato must attack Mr Milosevic's political infrastructure, his colleagues and the man himself. It is too late for threats of improbable arrests, lengthy arguments in The Hague at war-crimes trials and life imprisonment. Civilised and satisfying though that would be, and despite the Lockerbie suspects' incarceration, it will not happen to Mr Milosevic.

No more midnight attacks by cruise missiles against Defence and Interior Ministry facilities. The attacks should be timed to coincide with the maximum occupation of such buildings. The thugs who have organised the ethnic cleansing must be targets, not just their buildings.

There are those who argue that air power alone cannot force Mr Milosevic to comply with Nato. Certainly, there are not many precedents to gainsay them. Air power is crucially dependent on what or who is targeted, and how effectively. Colonel Muammar Gadaffi of Lybia shut down his state-sponsored terrorism after the Americans almost managed to kill him by aerial bombardment. Technology has advanced greatly since then. Even in the past five years there have been spectacular advances in accuracy and capability. It would be unwise for Mr Milosevic to think that Nato does not have the means to destroy him, even if it is reasonable for him to have supposed that it does not have the will.

Killing innocent and unarmed Albanians in cold blood is cowardly. Those who do such things are cowards. If Mr Milosevic and his murderous colleagues see the cruise missiles and the smart bombs getting rapidly closer to their own offices, their own homes and their own persons, I would be surprised if they do not sue for peace. If they do not, the Jugoslav National Army leadership may well take over and do it for them. There are senior officers in the Jugoslav army with a sense of honour proper to military men. They cannot be comfortable with the actions of their political leadership or with the daily sight of their men, equipment and military facilities being destroyed by a largely untouchable enemy.

There are no easy choices in war and no easy ways to stop evil men from committing acts of barbarity. However distasteful it may be for civilised Western leaders to contemplate, the destruction of Mr Milosevic and his murderous colleagues would bring the conflict to a speedy end and would avoid the uncertainties and far greater bloodshed of an inevitable and protracted conflict in the Balkans. It would also put other leaders on notice that the West will not tolerate barbarity in its midst.

The author was Independent Adviser to the Secretary of State for Defence 1993-97.

Anatole Kaletsky's column appears tomorrow.

comment@the-times.co.uk

'The West has consistently seen air power as a kind of geopolitical one-night stand, offering gratification without commitment'

Dominick Donald

Ever since President Milosevic started his crackdown on the Kosovo Liberation Army 13 months ago, Western threats have been undermined by one refrain. "We will not send in ground troops until a settlement is agreed," chorused the foreign ministries. The tragic consequence of this policy is that ground troops will now have to be sent in, but at a time, and in circumstances, of Mr Milosevic's choosing.

Nato has, this week, at last allowed that ground forces may be committed. But only if they can be guaranteed "unopposed entry". Air power alone, it is argued, will create a "permissive environment" in Kosovo which allows Nato to police a de facto settlement.

But the proliferation of euphemisms cannot disguise the essential fallacy on which Nato policy still rests. You cannot police a settlement unless you show the resolution necessary to enforce one. The West's readiness to use air power was supposed to show its resolve. But the West has consistently seen air power as a kind of geopolitical one-night stand, offering gratification without commitment.

The Western horror of open-ended military commitment inhibits Nato's capacity to use its military superiority to achieve its goals. Nato's principal military powers are still haunted by two previous interventions. In Somalia and Bosnia, troops committed before a deal was reached apparently had to choose between the irrelevance of waiting for the combatants to settle, or embroilment in a protracted conflict. Reason suggested that the best way to avoid another Srebrenica or Mogadishu was to refuse to commit troops until there was a settlement to police — no matter how much any of the belligerents might beg for help. This would provide a clear mission, simple objectives and a swift withdrawal. And if the parties were reluctant to put down their arms, air power could push them to the negotiating table.

Washington's foreign policy establishment, with its gift for the revealing euphemism, coined a new phrase for this application of force from the skies which avoids any American casualties. It's called "immaculate coercion". But, like immaculate conception, this wonderful idea works only as myth.

The failure of the West to bring Serbia to heel during the Rambouillet negotiations revealed the fundamental flaw in "immaculate coercion". The Milosevics of this world will buckle only if they believe you mean what you say. Yet deadlines were postponed and ultimatums ignored. Power is as much about political will as military means, and political will is best reflected by how much one is ready to risk: yet our leaders declared we would commit ground troops only if Mr Milosevic rolled over. By telling the Yugoslav leader we would not risk anything substantial we showed him our will was weak.

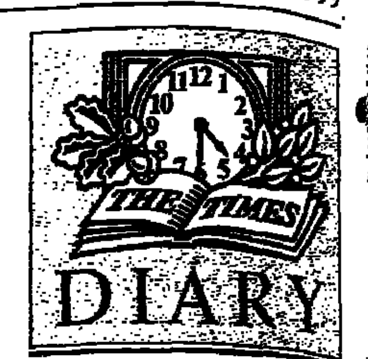
To talk now of "unopposed entry" only invites President Milosevic to finish his programme of ethnic cleansing, secure in the knowledge that the West will not risk lives to save lives.

The current failure of Nato policy on Kosovo stems in large part from the Western political reluctance to understand that "no-casualty" intervention is a lethal fantasy. The best way to minimise risk is to maintain the initiative. But the Western refusal to deploy a ground force before a settlement handed that initiative to Mr Milosevic. It left the principal issue at stake — the Kosovan Albanians — in his unmerciful hands. And despite the disclaimers of the last week, it has long been clear that Mr Milosevic might drive them out: his ruthless conduct in Vukovar in 1991 showed what he would do when unrestrained. Now Nato will have to deploy a ground force. But the deployment will be on Mr Milosevic's terms. Who else but he will do the permitting in the "permissive environment" of which strategists dream?

A ground deployment was on the cards the moment "immaculate coercion" was launched. If Tony Blair and Bill Clinton had thought this through, they would have set about building the political consensus for an early deployment. Then they would have been better placed to persuade Mr Milosevic to conform, and to ensure that the inevitable assault was mounted on our terms and thus with fewer casualties. Instead they indulged in the fantasy that the refusal to take risks shows strength of will. It does not. It simply increases the dangers. A ground intervention before the enemy is ready to settle can demonstrate will and shape a resolution, rather than simply execute it. Sometimes the best way to avoid danger is to confront it.

The author, a former soldier, is an academic in the Department of War Studies at King's College London.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Paine's gain?

LORD ATTENBOROUGH'S republican campaign has received a sympathetic ear at No 10. The film director dined discreetly with Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, last Friday to discuss whether the PM would be prepared to lend indirect support to the anti-monarchy movement by unveiling a statue of Thomas Paine.

Attenborough, who plans to make a film of the 18th-century revolutionary's life featuring Daniel Day-Lewis, is the highest profile supporter of the Common Sense group. It is campaigning to have Paine's seminal role in the American and French Revolutions recognised in Britain by unveiling the statue on the day the last hereditary peer leaves the House of Lords.

IF BETTE DAVIS had been a little more pleasant in 1955 on the set of The Virgin Queen, *Joan Collins (left) might have become a very different actress. "I was 19, working with Bette (right)," says the star of* The Bitch. *"She was so horrible that I said to myself, 'if ever I get to be a star, I am going to be as supportive as possible to new actors'."*



■ KEN LIVINGSTONE owes his life to Dr Strangelove. The Labour MP, who as the former GLC leader declared London a nuclear-free zone, has disclosed that a doctor on a French nuclear test site in Africa saved his life.

While on holiday from his day job as a lab technician, Livingstone stumbled into the weapons facility while travelling across the Sahara in 1966. "I had terrible dysentery, had lost the use of both my legs and was clearly dying," he recalls.

"The nearest town was more than 500 miles away. In the middle of the desert, there was a barbed wire fence and a door with a bell which we rang. A Jeep drove over, a French doctor was summoned and my life was saved."

THAT pretty, albeit politically aware, boy of Britpop, Damon Albarn, wants to become Björk's soulmate. The lead singer of Blur, who owns a Reykjavik pad, has applied for Icelandic citizenship: "I feel uncomfortable in England. Iceland is a place I feel a kindred spirit with, and it's a way to stick two fingers up at the English Establishment."

WHEN I knock into Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, the crooners who formed the middle letters of Abba, at the *Mamma Mia!* premiere party, they tell me a comeback is unlikely: "Look at us. We are too old to play the part." I demur from repeating their comments about how time has treated Frida and Agnetha.



VICTORIA WOOD is to bail out David Blunkett. She expects to raise £15,000 in one night by performing a rare double act with Geoffrey Durham, her magician husband, for her child's school.

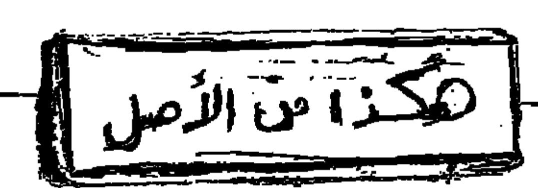
■ DOMINICK DUNNE, the American man of letters, claims he could have stymied the Lewinsky palaver if only he had believed the affair was possible. In the forthcoming *Vanity Fair*, he says he kept abreast of Linda Tripp's taping through a literary agent friend.

Before the messy business blew up, Dunne bumped into Vernon Jordan, President Clinton's golf buddy and legal minder, in a New York restaurant in 1997: "I decided to warn him that an intern of the President's was being taped.

"But the story suddenly seemed absurd. I thought that no one could be such a goddamned fool as to have an affair with a twentysomething in the Oval Office. So I simply mumbled 'Give my best to the President'."

EDWARD WELSH





TO WILL THE END

Nato politicians must will the means for victory

Two weeks into the air war, Slobodan Milosevic at last begins to look like the loser that he must, at whatever cost, be eventually proved to be. The Serbian leader cannot have expected Nato to do other than kick away his unilateral "ceasefire" — a temporary and tactical ceasefire that has stopped neither attacks on Nato aircraft nor fresh atrocities against Kosovans. Its main purpose was probably to provide political camouflage for standing down his armour in Kosovo before Nato destroys it, as it has finally begun to do. He may even extend the tactic, since Nato assaults on his ground forces in Kosovo will be more devastating once the American Apache attack helicopters and multiple launch rocket systems are deployed. Whether or not he does so, this supposed ceasefire is an irrelevance.

Kosovo's Albanians continue to endure a living hell; but a massive allied relief operation is beginning to improve conditions for the hundreds of thousands of deportees forced into Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia. That operation must include proper coverage of the administrative, social and logistical costs incurred by these governments and their people; and broad economic support for them and for other countries in the region, such as Bulgaria, which face extensive economic damage as a result of a conflict that is not of their making.

The agony of the Kosovans has appalled Western public opinion, hardening their support for Nato. It has begun to convince even the most pacific and the most sceptical that this evil, unparalleled in postwar Europe, cannot stand — and that unstintingly generous humanitarian relief, while essential and urgent, is a palliative rather than the solution that must be pursued.

That solution is their return, in safety, to rebuild their shattered lives; anything else would be a defeat for Nato and for humanity. There can be no peace that accepts the "facts on the ground" that Mr Milosevic has, in a calculated challenge, created. And there would in fact be no peace on those abject terms; for if the neighbouring countries had permanently to absorb most of the Kosovan refugees, Mr Milosevic would then have succeeded in destabilising the entire region.

Hard evidence accumulates that the atrocities in Kosovo are premeditated war crimes, that the methodical elimination of the Kosovan Albanians has been in preparation for months. The CIA was aware as early as last autumn of a plan, codenamed Operation Horseshoe, to kill or drive them out over several months. A village a day was the rate that Mr Milosevic calculated the West would wring its hands over without acting. In Pristina, public records have been combed to identify precisely which homes, shops and businesses were Albanian-owned; Serb police and paramilitaries have emptied towns and villages neighbourhood by neighbourhood in a pattern that has has been as unvaried as it has been ruthless.

The packed trains, the snipers picking off those who strayed out of line on the forced marches to the borders: every detail points to the existence of a detailed blueprint, without which so many could not have been murdered or driven into exile within a fortnight. In this context, yesterday's reported sealing of the frontiers by Serb forces is a sinister development; there is no such thing as safety in Kosovo for a people marked for destruction solely because of their racial identity.

This, then, is a war that must be won — and must be seen to be won. Convinced of this, Western publics await, with mounting impatience, a clearer articulation of what "winning" would look like, and how Nato proposes to get there.

On "winning", Nato's reiterated insistence that Mr Milsoevic must accept "a political settlement based on the Rambouillet peace agreement" rings hollow. Even with extensive self-government, it left Belgrade in ultimate authority over Kosovo and gave it two years to withdraw its troops and paramilitary forces. Rambouillet is dead. That leaves only partition, or an international protectorate which Nato would have to police for years to come.

Partition may be Mr Milosevic's planned fallback. But it cannot be remotely on his terms. The only partition that could, after such brutality, be contemplated would create small enclaves around particularly "historic" Serb sites, with the rest of the province under the full control of the Kosovan Albanian majority. Even then, whatever moral sense such a settlement might make, it would most likely just set the stage for the next conflict.

A protectorate makes more sense. It would ultimately lead either to a Yugoslav confederation under a new constitutional settlement, or to independence. The choice would be Serbia's: if the Milosevic police state stays in power, independence would be the consequence. If his regime were replaced by a democratic Government committed, like that of the republic of Montenegro, to intercommunal tolerance, a confederation could just conceivably be accepted by the traumatised Kosovans; that would create the best conditions for durable political stability and the massive reconstruction that will be required.

But first Mr Milosevic must be defeated. Nato leaders still insist that this can be achieved by air power alone. They are not believed, either by their own publics or by Belgrade. It is time that they answered the question: what happens after the bombing? For now, the Alliance's priority is to hammer Yugoslavia's military infrastructure and the fighting strength and morale of its forces in Kosovo. But sooner rather than later, airstrikes will have achieved all that they can, short of destroying what is left of the modern Yugoslav state. These airstrikes may or may not succeed in creating the "permissive environment" which would enable people to start returning home under Nato protection. Even under the best scenario, Nato troops will require much heavier armoury than was envisaged at the time of Rambouillet. It is more likely that they will have to contend with armed Serb resistance, organised or "freelance".

There is no predicting if, or when, Mr Milosevic will admit defeat. There must be no question of a gap of weeks or months before Nato is ready to move in its troops. Nato started this campaign on the wrong foot; it must be adequately prepared for the finish, and be seen to be so.

Public support for committing troops, to a ground war if need be, is growing, with a majority now in favour even in the United States. The barbarity in Kosovo has seen to that. Troops can be swiftly deployed; but their equipment needs to be seaborne in the very near future. The Pentagon's announcement that 2,600 troops, equipped with main battle tanks and armoured vehicles, will move to Albania as "force protection" for the Apache helicopters, could be the preliminary moves in the direction to which the logic of this war inexorably points. There is no gain in politicians continuing to pretend that they are the only people who have neither given, nor are prepared to give, the proper thought to the Nato endgame.

YELLOW AND BENT

The EU's contorted banana regime must now be abandoned

For the fifth time in a mere six years an international trade panel has investigated the methods by which the European Union regulates the imports of bananas and found them wanting. On every previous occasion the EU has fiddled at the edges of its rules and avoided the substantive issue. As a result the EU and an increasingly frustrated United States have found themselves on the brink of a serious trade conflict. The decision announced by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) yesterday represents the EU's last chance to reach an amicable settlement. If it does not, then nearly £120 million of retaliatory American sanctions will be imposed shortly, with a devastating impact on the Scottish cashmere industry among others.

The WTO arbitrators were required to pronounce on whether the EU banana regime applies quotas and tariffs to certain countries in a discriminatory fashion. It is not difficult to sympathise with the logic that led them to conclude that the present banana system is indefensible. The EU divides banana producers into three different sections: those within the EU itself; those from 12 specific African, Caribbean and Pacific nations; and others from those regions plus the so-called "dollar banana" suppliers from Latin America. The first two quotas are based on the highest previous levels of sales and are thus very charitable. The final quota is set deliberately low and, once exceeded, invokes utterly punitive additional tariffs.

Nor can this be defended as a necessary means of preserving plucky, poor, former colonies from heartless American-owned multinational corporations. The primary cost of the current banana rules falls upon the hapless EU consumer. A modest £100 million is returned to a favoured few developing countries. Among those Latin American states hit hard by the EU's regulations are Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua: these are impoverished nations at the best of times and in dire straits after the damage inflicted by Hurricane Mitch six months ago. The complicated EU rules for allocating quotas within quotas has also tended to favour the relatively rich over their often poorer neighbours.

The broader macroeconomic effect is even more undesirable. The EU manages to distort the world banana trade in a manner that leaves producer nations at no net financial advantage. The consequence of deliberate delay in Brussels over the past six years is that a start has scarcely been made in encouraging those changes among the banana exporters of the West Indies — such as the consolidation of small plantations — that would reduce their costs and enhance their competitive position. The essential task of encouraging much-needed economic diversification in these countries has been similarly neglected.

The EU should introduce a non-discriminatory quota and tariff system or, better still, abolish quotas and tariffs completely. Sir Leon Brittan, the acting EU Commissioner concerned, promised yesterday to abide by the WTO decision but did not rule out continuing this battle. That decision will be delegated to EU members. They would be extremely unwise to persist in a struggle that is not in the interests of their consumers, or of international commerce, or even of the banana growers themselves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Milosevic in pursuit of his 'final solution' in Kosovo

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, The idea of driving all the Albanians out of Kosovo has been canvassed sporadically in Serb nationalist theorisings ever since the province was allocated to Serbia by the then great powers in 1912-13.

Governments in Belgrade have tried fairly consistently to make Albanians leave. They have had some success; but the Albanian population has multiplied and the Serb population declined as Serb families preferred not to stay in that relatively neglected, underdeveloped and overwhelmingly Albanian region.

President Milosevic and his Government are the first to try to put the theoretical final solution into practice. It is a final solution without gas chambers. There is plenty of killing, but perhaps not enough as yet to earn the name of holocaust in public estimation.

The cause of this final solution is not the bombing but the assessment made in Belgrade that the Contact Group plan put forward at Rambouillet implied that Kosovo would slip out of Serbian control in the next few years and that the ruin of the Greater Serbia project would be complete. The only way to prevent Kosovo becoming autonomous was to drive out the population which would exercise autonomy.

Those who flinch from Nato's action, or speculate about a negotiated endgame, or weigh up the possibility of dividing Kosovo should perhaps reflect on the shame and confusion which will overtake Europe if we fail for a second time to check and reverse the carrying-out of a final solution in this century. And the Russians, with their experience of pogroms and massacres, would be wise to recognise that a truly massive pogrom is occurring in Kosovo and avoid lending support to its perpetrators.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Y Frondeg, Pennal,
Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9JX.
April 6.

From Dr Raphael Papadopoulos

Sir, The most serious and lasting damage by the bombs and rockets is being inflicted on the international community and its collective institutions.

Nato's action constitutes a clear violation of the rules of the international community and its own charter. Why will a Nato-imposed selectivity in the use of military force be better for the peace of the world than the more balanced and consensual selectivity implicit in the UN rules?

Milosevic's behaviour in Kosovo, abhorrent as it is, is not unique. "Successful" examples of ethnic cleansing in Palestine, Croatia and northern Cyprus, to name the three nearest, suggest that ethnic cleansers consider war of any kind as a golden opportunity for a rapid acceleration of the process.

What seems to be different this time is the determined effort of some Nato politicians to channel the public debate by flourishing new rules of engagement for Nato and a selective view of history.

Yours sincerely,
R. PAPADOPOULOS,
52 Asmuns Place, NW11 7XE.
April 6.

From Dr Martin Evans

Sir, I totally support the principle of Nato military intervention to stop this abhorrent "ethnic cleansing", but, as our wiser retired generals have repeatedly reminded us, it will take a land army to do it. If we did not think we could win even with a ground force we should never have started this war.

Nato's faith in bombs as a means of persuasion is alarming for its naivety and our Government's intellectual dishonesty in pretending that we can successfully prosecute this war from a safe distance insults the intelligence and courage of the British people.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN EVANS,
35 Cavendish Avenue,
Cambridge CB1 7UR.
April 6.

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, Almost daily, Tom Walker has reported conditions and attitudes in Belgrade under Nato's bombing. But there are no reports of protests in Belgrade against the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo. Nor, for that matter, were there during the earlier atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I do not believe, as was suggested in the BBC news this evening, that Serbians are ignorant of these crimes.

Daniel Goldhagen's monumental study *Hitler's Willing Executioners* (Little, Brown & Co, 1996) showed how widespread within Germany was the knowledge of Hitler's genocidal policies which, in today's terminology, would be described as ethnic cleansing.

It would appear that, like the Germans, the people of Serbia are disclaiming knowledge of the crimes being committed in their name.

Yours faithfully,
ANSEL HARRIS,
35 The Pryors, NW3 1BP.
leans@msn.com
April 5.

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, Slobodan Milosevic, who might otherwise have been adjudged a rather third-rate and readily forgettable political figure, seems likely to have been transformed by recent events into a national hero, whom Serbs will revere through centuries to come.

Indeed it may not be long before some enterprising Serbian impresario commissions an opera, of which Milosevic will be the hero.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
2 Pencarrow, The Avenue,
Sherbourne, Dorset DT9 3AJ.
April 6.

From Mr Leon Gamsa

Sir, For the cost of a single cruise missile, how many leaflets could be dropped over Belgrade to make its citizens aware of the genocide perpetrated in their name?

Yours faithfully,
LEON GAMSA,
45 Brampton Grove, NW4 4AH.
April 7.

From Mr J. C. Griffiths

Sir, As always, the Ancients have a saying for it: "When they make a desert they call it peace" (Tacitus, *Agricola*).

It looks as though the efforts of both sides to this conflict will leave Kosovo a region of abandoned villages and a ruined infrastructure.

Yours etc,
JOHN C. GRIFFITHS,
5 The Courtyard,
Waltham-on-the-Wolds,
Melton Mowbray, LE14 4RE.
April 6.

War crimes

From Mrs Irene Rosenberg

Sir, Mr Barry Baines comments (letter, April 5) that "a frail old man" has been convicted of crimes committed in 1942 and suggests that "the door be shut on the past".

Unfortunately, the past is so tightly packed with the corpses of millions of innocent men, women and children, and of many, many frail old people, that the doors just cannot be closed.

Yours faithfully,
IRENE ROSENBERG,
17 Fernhall Drive,
Redbridge, Ilford, Essex IG4 5BN.
April 7.

Fires in tunnels

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, It is hard for me to understand why the tragic fire in the Mont Blanc tunnel (report, March 27), or that in the Channel Tunnel in 1996, should have taken several hours to subdue.

A simple plug of fresh-air detergent foam, generated upwind of the seat of the fire, will rapidly extinguish it, while permitting refugees and fire-fighters to breathe. The fiercer the fire, the more rapidly such a plug will take effect, provided it is formed by spraying a light mesh screen, which can be rapidly erected to cover the cross-section of the tunnel.

This foam plug technique was developed at the Safety in Mines Research Establishment in the 1950s, and widely publicised in the mining industry at the time.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMITH
(Chartered mining engineer),
63 Abbey House,
1a Abbey Road, NW8 9BX.
March 27.

Pupil selection

From Mr Donald S. Akroyd

Sir, Mr Edward Norman (letter, March 29) is so right in believing that selection will be distressing to the least gifted in the class who cannot become the "new elite".

It will be distressing for those in comprehensive schools to see a classmate with four A levels proceed to Oxbridge; for those in the village team to see any friend playing in the Premier League; for a junior clerk to see a colleague rise to board level; or even for the parish priest to see a neighbouring priest elevated to a bishopric.

But then life is distressing, some are more equal than others and education must encourage the bright pupils and recognise that there will always be "also-rans".

Yours,
DONALD S. AKROYD,
The Stone Cottage, Barnwell,
Peterborough PE8 5PF.
March 29.

Business letters, page 31

Judges' ruling on asylum-seekers

From Mr J. B. McGuinness

Sir, The Geneva Convention rightly lays down ground rules for the protection of asylum-seekers. However, the construction placed on the convention by the law lords by extending the concept of a "social group" to include women if their country of origin is perceived as having "institutionalised discrimination against women" (Law Report, March 26) is unwarranted and challenges the conventions regarding the relationship between the judiciary and the legislature.

Lord Hoffmann makes it clear that the delegates to the convention in 1951 were not contemplating as their intention that women should form a specified group entitling them to protection. Yet the law lords feel free to repair this omission from no other source than historical analogies and their own conscience, admirable though that is.

In extremis, judges may construct a meaning to a statute or treaty if this can be seen as demonstrating the intention of the legislating body. If the search for the purpose of the legislation could cause them to overstep their constitutional limits they step back and leave it to the jurisdiction of Parliament.

In this case the law lords have stepped over the mark. As the final court of appeal on this matter they have created law. The only choice for the Home Secretary and Parliament is to bring in legislation reversing the judgment, which is unlikely.

Given that the Human Rights Act is currently on the statute book we face a situation of major constitutional significance. The judiciary is clearly feeling in a reforming mood and may challenge any legislation that it feels contravenes some universal human right. Parliament won the battle in the last century as to the right of judges to challenge statutes. In the next century the judiciary is clearly going to have a more powerful role.

The independence of the judiciary must be examined. The selection process will have to become more transparent and accountable. Parliament must recognise that it will have to forgo its present absolute sovereignty.

Yours,
J. B. McGUINNESS,
22 Oswald Road,
Chorlton, Manchester M21 9LP.
April 3.

Speed-traps

From Mr Adam Ogilvie-Smith

Sir, There is no harm in publishing the locations of speed traps (report, March 24; letters, March 31 and April 7). The cameras' objective is to reduce accident rates, not to increase penalties to motorists.

My review of the Traffic Police in 1993-94, on behalf of the Home Office, revealed two key facts. First, the policy was to site cameras where there was a proven accident rate, not necessarily where speeds were highest. Second, some police forces had co-operated with the creation of "speed-trap maps": when one such city map was being made, the relevant police force alerted the map-maker to cameras he had missed — with the goal of reducing accidents at those locations, either by slowing or diverting the traffic.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM OGILVIE-SMITH,
Hyde House,
Longworth,
Oxfordshire OX13 5HH.
April 7.

Wedding gifts

From Mrs Cynthia Knowles

Sir, At their request we have given our daughter, and new son-in-law of ten days, a tandem (letters, April 2 and 5).

Yours faithfully,
CYNTHIA KNOWLES,
Square Fold,
26 White Lion Road, Amersham,
Buckinghamshire HP7 9JD.
April 6.

Marbles in the gutter

From Mr Murray Freedman

Sir, Mr Edward Wilcock's letter (March 27) about children playing "tors" (marbles) in the streets of Leeds, following your photograph (March 19), brought back many happy personal memories. One dialect word he mentioned that has persisted is "ginnel" for alleyway, and "foreigners" to Yorkshire happily acquire its use when they settle amongst us Leodensians.

What I particularly remember as a Jewish child in the Thirties was playing "nuts" less than a mile away from where the photograph was taken at this time of the year — Passover.

Hazelnuts were used in a variety of games, the origins of which I do not know. In one, empty matzo boxes had holes of various sizes cut in them and one had to roll the nuts through the holes to gain more nuts as prizes. In another game the holes and dips between the street cobbles were utilised. Winners over the season ended up with a great stock of hazelnuts.

Alas, along with the demise of the cobbles went the games — of which the present generation of Jewish children has probably never heard.

Yours faithfully,
M. P. FREEDMAN,
29 Sandhill Crescent,
Leeds LS17 8DY.
mpfreed@infinnet.co.uk
March 28.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Medical efficacy of green tea

From Dr Anne M. Birrell

Sir, May I add a footnote to your entertaining editorial on the efficacy of drinking green tea ("Hot, wet and healthy", April 1).

The anecdote about the discovery of tea as a drink by the "servant of the Chinese Emperor Shen Nung" is triply apocryphal. Shen Nung was not an historical emperor and the dates given are a traditional invention.

Shen Nung was a god whose name translates as God the Farmer. Besides being the god of agriculture, he was also the god and divine originator of medicine. His name was attached to the traditional pharmacopoeia, generally entitled the *Pen ts'ao*, or herbal.

Far from being discovered and enjoyed in the 3rd millennium BC, *Thea viridis*, the tea shrub, was originally not indigenous to China but imported from India in the 6th century AD. Its link with God the Farmer, patron of medicine, is its medical efficacy, allegedly aiding drinkers as a diuretic, laxative, stimulant and cooling infusion, besides its use as an eyewash and lotion for sores. Its seeds allegedly cured coughs and tinnitus.

The T'ang writer Lu Yü promoted its benefits in his book, *The Tea Classic* of AD 804, using the word *ch'a* for tea, whence cuppa char in pidgin English.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE M. BIRRELL
(Author, *Chinese Mythology — An Introduction*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993),
Clare Hall,
Herschel Road, Cambridge CB3 9AL.
April 1.

From Dr L. Fisch

Sir, Your leading article concerning the benefits of drinking tea mentioned William Gladstone: "If you are depressed it will cheer you; if you are excited, it will calm you."

A reason for the paradoxical effect of so-called psychostimulants was suggested by Dr J. Wilder in the *American Journal of Psychotherapy* (72,199, 1958) and other journals. He named this phenomenon "The law of initial values", according to which a change in any function caused by stimulation depends upon the pre-stimulus level of that function.

A commonly used stimulant, such as tea for example, has precisely the effect mentioned by Gladstone. A habitual smoker may light a cigarette to calm down, but when he or she is feeling low and depressed it may stimulate activity.

Doctors and others are puzzled by the paradoxical effect of psychostimulants (especially Ritalin, used to calm hyperactive children but which is also accepted as a stimulant). Nevertheless, Dr Wilder's important revelations seem to have disappeared into the dustbin of history.

Yours truly,
L. FISCH,
46 The Drive,
Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7EJ.
April 2.

Fired-up for speed

From Mr John Disley

Sir, Mr John Hunter, the winner of the World Coal Carrying Championships (photograph and caption, April 6) should be immediately signed up for the British Olympic team. His time of 4 minutes 27 seconds for the mile is astounding. It would mean that if he started at the front of next week's London Marathon he would be 200 metres ahead of the field at the mile post, with his 110lb bag of coal.

Of course, it could be that the Yorkshire timekeepers used a cuckoo-clock or that the course was measured by a car's mileometer, both notoriously inaccurate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DISLEY
(Director),
The London Marathon Limited,
PO Box 1234, London SE1 8RZ.
April 6.

All you need to know?

From Mr Frank Horisk

Sir, In the TV listings of my local daily newspaper there appears this outline of the programme *Animal Hospital* on BBC1 on Easter Tuesday: "A kitten whose leg became trapped in its collar returns for a check-up and the vets perform an operation on a pet lizard with a swollen foot."

Does this show that John Birt's mission to explain has now been fully achieved?

Yours,
FRANK HORISK,
47 Church Street, Irvinestown,
Co Fermanagh BT94 1EJ.
April 6.

You have been warned

From Mr Michael Blakey

Sir, AA signs on a number of our local roads read: "April 10. Campaign for a Living Wage. Severe Delays Expected."

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BLAKEY,
1 Castle Farm Mews,
Castle Farm Road, Jesmond,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3RG.
April 6.



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 6: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 7: The Duke of York today launched the Royal News Review on the Internet at the Costa Cafe, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 7: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened Alexandra House, which is the home of Age Concern Hounslow and the Brentford Community Resource Centre, in Albany Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

Her Royal Highness, President, subsequently visited the Imperial Cancer Research Shop at 123a King Street, Hammersmith, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit the Taigh Chearsabhaigh Arts Centre at Lochmaddy, North Uist, at 11.20; will visit Lochmaddy Surgery, at 11.55; will visit the Iron Age Settlement at Bernera, Isle of Lewis, at 12.55; and will join members of the Berneray Community for a reception at the Community Centre and then present the Lord of the Isles Trophy to the winning team of the Shinty Mini Festival, at 1.50.

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Rolls-Royce, Filton, at 10.40; and will visit Hewlett-Packard, Bristol, at 12.30.

Princess Alexandra, patron, will attend a reception and luncheon to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London W1, at 12.30.

Mr Peregrine Fellowes

A memorial service for Mr Peregrine Fellowes, will be held at the Brompton Oratory, on Thursday, May 6, 1999, at 11.00am.

Mrs Santa Peake (von Henikstein)

A mass in thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Santa Maria Peake, will be held in the Chapel of The Hope Nursing Home, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 11.00am.

School news

Queen Margaret's School, York

Queen Margaret's School, York announces the awards of the following Scholarships for September 1999:

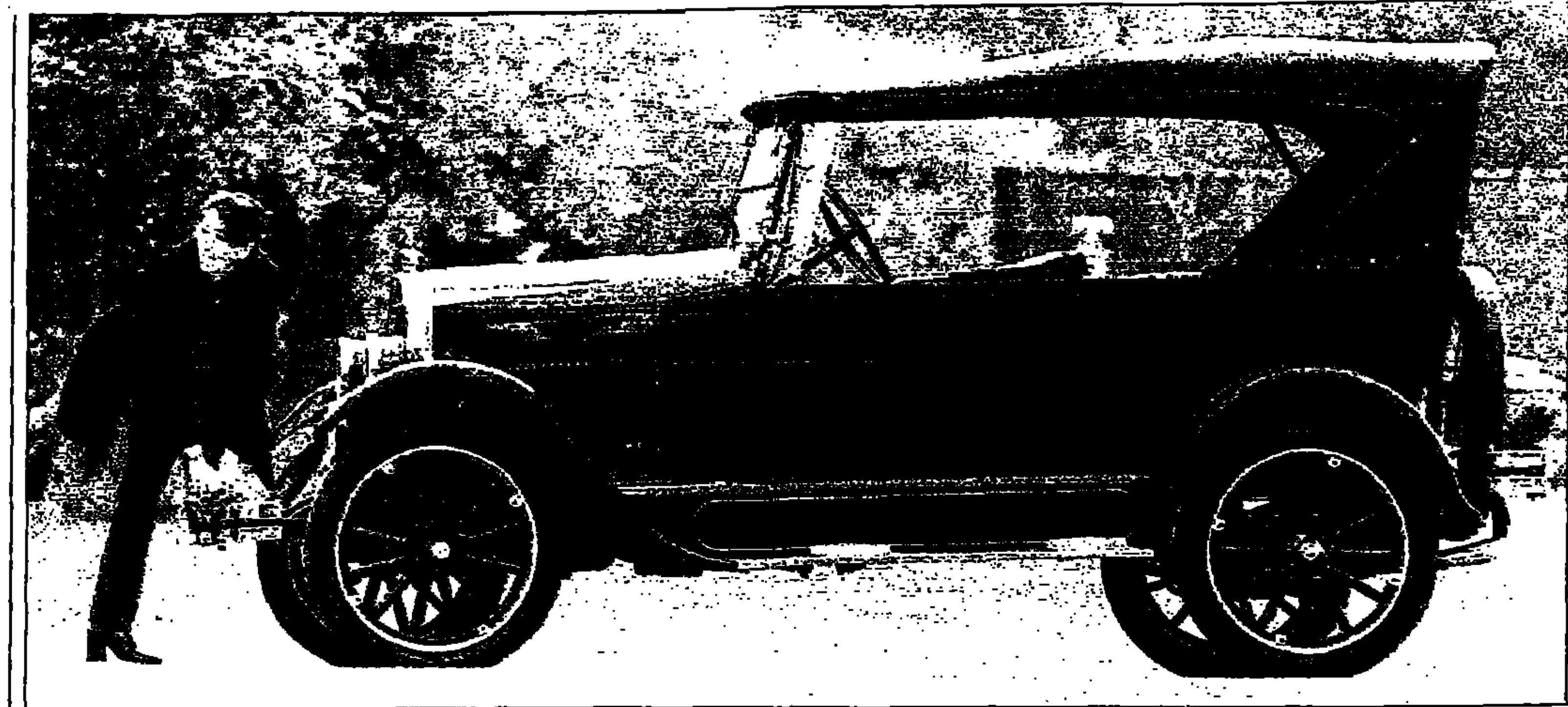
Academic

11+: Anna Dawson (Knayton Primary School, Thirsk), Sheredan Ford (Badger Hill Primary School, York).
12+: Caroline Gore-Booth (Polam Hall School, Darlington), Elizabeth Hodgkinson (Queen Mary's School, Thirsk).
13+: Mary Gore-Booth (Polam Hall School, Darlington), Meeka Harrison-Topham (Queen Mary's School, Thirsk).
Sixth Form internal awards: Victoria Argyle, Rachel O'Brien, Noelle Sugiyama.

Appointments

Mr Iain Kelly has been appointed Ambassador to Belarus in succession to Miss Jessica Pearce, and Mr John Grant has been appointed Ambassador to Sweden from August in succession to Mr Roger Bone. Miss Pearce and Mr Bone will be transferring to new Diplomatic Service appointments.

ANDREW HASSON



This sparkling 1924 Star cabriolet, made by the Durant Motor Company of Michigan as an up-to-date rival of the Model T Ford, is expected to make £8,000 to £10,000 at an auction of vintage cars, motorcycles and motoring paraphernalia at Sotheby's Billingshurst saleroom tomorrow

Birthdays today

Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations, 61; Professor Sir John Arbuthnott, Principal, Strathclyde University, 60; Mr Tony Banks, MP, Minister for Sport, 56; Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 55; Mr Mark Blundell, racing driver, 33; Sir Andrew Bowden, former MP, 69; Sir Graham Burton, diplomat, 58; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 75; Lord Grantchester, 48; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowrey, former matron-in-chief, PMRAFNS, 94; Mrs Mary Moore, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 69; Mr W. Garth Morrison, former Chief Scout, 56; Mr Peter Rogers, chief executive, ITC, 58; Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 80; Mr Alec Stewart, cricketer, 36; Sir Thomas Thomson, former chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 76; Miss Dorothy Tutin, actress, 68; Miss Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer, 58; Baroness Young of Old Scone, 51.

Service luncheon

Somerset Light Infantry

Colonel J.L. Waddy presided at a luncheon of the Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) held yesterday at the Mount Somerset Hotel, Taunton.

Meeting

Royal Institute of International Affairs

Sir Charles Powell was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs held yesterday at Chatham House. Lord Jenkin of Roding presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Loudon, horticulturist, Cambuslang, Strathclyde, 1783; Sir Arthur Streeton, Australian painter, Victoria, 1867; Albert I, King of the Belgians 1909-34, Brussels, 1875; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Chester, 1889; Mary Pickford, silent film star, Toronto, 1893; Sonja Henie, world skating champion and film actress, Oslo, 1912.

DEATHS: El Greco, painter, Toledo, 1614; Karl von Humboldt, philosopher and educator, Tegel, Germany, 1835; Elisha Otis, pioneer of the safety lift, Yonkers, New York, 1861; Vaslav Nijinsky, ballet dancer, London, 1950; Pablo Picasso, painter, Mougins, France, 1973; Omar Nelson Bradley, American army general, New York, 1981.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship *Great Western* sailed from Bristol on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic to New York, 1838.

King Zog of Albania abdicated, 1939.

The League of Nations held its final meeting, 1946.

In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was convicted for his involvement with the Mau-Mau, 1953.

Winston Churchill Fellowships

The following have been awarded Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowships for 1999 (the list gives name, home town, age, occupation, place of travel and purpose):

Mrs Loraine Ashton, Southsea, 56, programme manager, Health Education Authority. US and Australia. Health promotion strategies for the over 50s.
Mr Timothy Austin, Lee on Solent, 56, managing director, US. Improving integrated business support for newly created businesses.
Mrs Islay Auty, Hallow, 47, riding instructor. Germany and Sweden. The training and development of junior dressage riders.
Dr Charles Batteson, Kendal, 44, principal lecturer in education, US. Recruiting and retaining schoolteachers in inner city/multi cultural areas.
Mr Andrew Beard, Sheffield, 50, City Architect, Sheffield County Council. US and Japan. City centre regeneration through quality urban design.
Mr Philip Benzie, Ormskirk, 36, transport engineer, Blackpool Borough Council. Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Design criteria for railway passenger/freight facilities.
Mrs Valerie Besag, Newcastle upon Tyne, 58, teacher and educational psychologist. Canada, US and Australia. A transitional approach to student peer support systems.
Ms Christine Beveridge, London, 43, project officer/freelance trainer. Australia. Establishing hepatitis C support groups in the community.
Dr Richard Bradshaw, Cambridge, 33, research scientist, Cambridge University. US. The public understanding of animal welfare science.
Mr Mark Brundrett, Brixworth, 40, university lecturer in education management. US. Headteacher training and assessment.
Miss Jessica Bryne-Daniel, Golcar, 35, landscape architect. Japan and US. Urban design: people and spaces.
Mrs Edna Cameron, Elgin, 49, college lecturer. Canada and US. Educational and training opportunities for women in rural areas.
Mr Peter Campbell, Lerwick, 48, head teacher. Norway and Finland. Teaching a second language to young children.
Ms Patricia Carroll, Romford, 44, deputy headteacher. Australia and US. Reading programmes in schools.
Mr Daniel Chadwick, Bolton, 24, MA research student/assistant tutor. China. The urban morphological process in relation to highways.
Mrs Kathleen Cherry, Kelso, 49, HMI of schools, Scottish Office. Norway/Sweden. Australia. Effective leadership in pre-school education.
The Rev Arthur Creber, Newcastle under Lyme, 53, clergyman. Canada and US. The Church's response to an ageing population.
Miss Sophia Cunningham, Denbigh, 25, freelance journalist. Central Asia and China. The Silk Road expedition.
Mr John Darbyshire, Lanark, 36, countryside ranger. Poland and Russia. Badger welfare and legislation.
Dr Karen Darke, Banchory, 27, geologist. Nepal and Tibet. First hand cycle traverse of the Friendship Highway.
Mr Mathew Dart, London, 41, woodwind instrument maker. Germany, Austria, Belgium and Holland. 18th-century bassoons.
Mr Kim Dent-Brown, Hessle, 40, drama therapist. Israel. Storymaking - a therapeutic tool in mental health.
Mr Michael Denton, Barnsley, 27, research student. US. Investigations and modelling of near-earth space weather.
Mr Stewart Dickson, Carrickfergus, 47, senior industrial relations officer. US. Best practice in enterprise development.
Ms Kika Dixon, London, 25, student/enterprise co-ordinator. Nepal and Bolivia. Evaluation of social enterprises.
Mr Pat Donnelly, Belfast, 45, chief executive, Proteus. US and Australia. An evaluation of welfare to work programmes.
Ms Milly Doregos, Manchester, 45, counsellor/crisis worker. US. Forensic medical examination: a nurse's perspective.
Ms Meta Evans, Lochwinnoch, 41, information & training officer. US. The education and training of head injury rehabilitation workers.
Ms Fiona Ferguson, Exeter, 49, mental Health self-advocacy worker. US. Telemental health services in rural communities.
Mr William Fernie, Wick, 49, volunteer bureau development, Highland volunteer development, Agency. US. Opportunities for the disadvantaged in small business creation.
Ms Susan Fletcher, Deganwy, 24, leisure support officer. Belgium, Austria, France and Spain. European development funding for local communities.
Ms Heather Floyd, Belfast, 36, education manager. France, Switzerland and Italy. Community festivals, fetes, feilie and festivals: a contribution.
Mr William Forbes, Perth, 57, publications manager, Scottish Natural Heritage. Iceland and Faroe Islands. Defining local distinctiveness in town and country.
Mr Philip Friend, Hatfield, 43, disability consultant. US. The impact of disability legislation on small businesses.
Mr Stephen Friend, York, 51, university lecturer. Canada and US. Maritime missions: Contemporary developments; archival preservation and accessibility.
Miss Sara Gadd, Brighton, 27, lecturer in photography. Western Samoa. A historical photographic project.
Mr Michael Gardner, Crediton, 30, woodland skills training Coordinator. US and Canada. Sustainable forest products from isolated rural communities.
Mr Jonathan Gillespie-Payne, Farnham, 34, self-employed expedition manager and leadership trainer. Chile and Peru. In the footsteps of the historic ship Yavari.
Mrs Mary Gleeson, Launceston, 53, business advisor. Australia and New Zealand. Rural area job/wealth creation through IT.
Dr Gillian Glegg, near Ivybridge, 36, university lecturer. Netherlands, Portugal and US. Waste water pollution control.
Dr Alan Goodall, Glasgow, 59, director of audio visual media services. US and Australia. Creating virtual environments for education and training.
Mr Bryn Green, Ashford, 57, emeritus professor. New Zealand and Australia. Alternative approaches to promoting countryside management in farming.
Mrs Simone Griffin, Telford, 36, none: disabled (rheumatoid arthritis). Italy. Creating a rewarding future as a disabled role model.
Mr Dida Halake, London, 42, teacher/lecturer. Kenya. Society, education and inner city minorities.
Mr Nigel Harling, Penrith, 29, police officer. Spitzbergen. Canoeing expedition: "80 degrees north".
Ms Wendy Hitchmough, Lewes, 39, architectural historian. Finland, Sweden, Germany, France, Belgium and US. Artists' Houses c. 1900.
Ms Sarah Hocombe, London, 35, self-employed artist. Italy. The research and development of contemporary fresco techniques.
Mr John Hopkins, London, 44, landscape architect/urban designer. US. Urban space: form, funding and function.
Mr Mark Howard, Bicester, 30, self-employed farmer. Belgium, Germany and US. Defining the function of farming in rural communities.
Mr Geoffrey Hughes, Usk, 48, prisons inspector. Finland, Sweden and Denmark. Prison inspections.
Mr Christopher Hughes, London, 24, PhD student. Germany. Development of immunotherapy for the treatment of leukaemia.
Mr Laurence Hunt, Exeter, 35, school teacher. US. Sharing the best aspects of inner city regeneration.
Mr Iqubal Hyare, Coventry, 41, co-ordinator of research & development: ethnicity & culture. India and Pakistan. Community based addiction services in multi-racial societies.
Ms E Menna Jones, Caernarfon, 37, chief executive of a charity. US. Welsh and American communities re-discover John Evans' exploration (1795-97).
Mr Gary Kass, Woking, 34, advisor - environment and energy parliamentary office. US and Denmark. Issues in science and technology - informing parliamentarians.
Ms Jennifer Kavanagh, London, 51, community worker. Bangladesh, Poland and France. The practical application of micro-credit.
Ms Dalbinder Kular, Sheffield, 30, Child Protection Social Worker. US and India. Developing multi-cultural approaches to adventure education.
Mr Kenneth Laidlaw, Bonnyrigg, 36, chartered clinical psychologist/lecturer. US. Skills enhancement in psychological treatments for older adults.
Dr Philip Lee, Llangennech, 29, research officer. US. Sustainable mountain bike trails.
Mr David Lindsay, Wallasey, 46, BT 1st line manager. Netherlands. The world transplant games.
Mr Keith Long, Oxford, 44, university technician. US. The teaching of practical physics skills to undergraduates.
Ms Catherine Lucktaylor, Brighton, 30, freelance community artist. Mali, Nigeria, Ghana and Brazil. The evolution of displaced African culture.
Mr Steven Macdonald, Worcester, 26, regional manager (for charity). Australia. Hot footing to the Millennium. Adelaide to Darwin: in the footsteps of Capt Charles Sturt.
Dr Dawn Male, London, 45, university lecturer. US. The inclusion of pupils with profound learning difficulties.
Miss Jill Metheringha, St Albans, 28, technical officer. China, US and Israel. Disposal of day-old chicks - the way forward.
Mr David Millar, Belfast, 44, chief executive. Canada and US. The impact on small business growth of community economic development.
Mrs Carol Milton, Dundee, 44, customer assistant. New Zealand. The age issue: burden or challenge for disabled older people.
Mr S G Pete Moore, Hull, 27, youth justice Officer. New Zealand. Adventurous training for young offenders.
Mrs Julie Newman, London, 36, support teacher and course organiser. Canada. Early assessment and intervention — a comparative autism study.
Mr Graham Noble, Kings Lynn, 47, engineering services manager. US and Canada. Improving conditions for poultry during transportation.
Mrs Georgina Norman, Sleaford, 75, regional co-ordinator. US. Patient care services for the elderly.
Ms Jane Owens, Birmingham, 39, European resource centre for schools and colleges manager. France, Finland and Ireland. Educational project: the Euro.
Dr Claire Paisley, Penarth, 33, senior research officer. Canada. Community health development and evaluation.
Mr Stephen Payne, Chelmsford, 46, advanced products Manager. Japan, US, Switzerland and Germany. Benchmark study of high resolution printed wiring technology.
Mr Chris Pound, Bath, 53, architect/town planner. Europe. Urban design and presentation of heritage cities.
Mr Carl Preston, near Rochdale, 42, foreman driller. Australia. The enhancement of British drilling technology.
Mr Graham Probert, Raglan, 31, self-employed farmer. US and France. Rural business enterprises.
Professor John Ramsden, London, 50, university teacher. New Zealand. The post war reputation of Sir Winston Churchill.
Ms Elsa Redwood, London, 54, project manager, North London Business Development Agency. US. Expanded vistas - making an early retirement fulfilling.
Mrs Pat Robinson, Ripley, 42, clinical psychologist. US. Ways forward: challenging behaviour and learning disabilities.
Mr Richard Rowland, South Molton, 48, veterinary surgeon. Australia. Welfare benefits of foot rot eradication in sheep.
Mr Robin Ruddock, Portrush, 42, assistant warden. Argentina. Coastal kayaking and the environment.
Ms Jay Rutovitz, Todmorden, 43, energy and conservation coordinator. Holland, Switzerland, Sweden and Canada. Zero energy and low energy communities and buildings.
Ms Anna Sansom, Edinburgh, 25, research occupational therapist. Australia. Hospital discharge planning for people with strokes.
Mr Athelston Sealey, Birmingham, 41, self-employed entrepreneur. US. Strategies for developing sustainable minority-owned enterprises.
Miss Linzi Selwright, Cupar, 25, senior ranger. New Zealand. Animal welfare implications of national park development.
Ms Deborah Shaw, Horley, 42, research scientist, Medical Toxicology Unit. Australia. Chinese herbal medicine - efficacy and safety in practice.
Mr Sandy Slater, Fort William, 44, management consultant. Norway and Ireland. Best practice support for small businesses in rural areas.
The Rev Willy Slavin, Glasgow, 58, hospital chaplain, Chartered Psychologist. US and Canada. Care of immune system in later years.
Miss Sarah Smith, London, 37, schools library service librarian. US. Schools library services.
Mrs Jean Stogdon, London, 70, guardian ad litem panel. US. Grandparents - their value to children, families and community.
Mr Halvor Tasker, Ossett, 65, wood finisher. France. Wood finishing and restorative techniques.
Ms Lesley Thomson, Glasgow, 30, educational psychologist. Germany. Early literacy skills teaching.
Mrs Selina Tipping, Blackpool, 43, information systems officer. Singapore. Universal internet access.
Ms Vivian Tozer, St David's, 45, organic cheese maker. Holland, Denmark and Sweden. Organic farming.
Miss Emma Tregear, Walberton, 24, administrative assistant. Canada or Australia. Care of reptiles.
Mr Barrie Trevena, Helston, 42, environmental health officer. Canada and US. Investigating associations between E.coli 0157 infection and animal contact.
Mr Andrew Trotter, Castle Douglas, 27, chief inspector at an Outdoor Centre. US. Residential centres for drug/alcohol dependents.
Mr Gordon Wallace, Linlithgow, 56, director - training and enterprise. US. Social inclusion through growth of entrepreneurial small businesses.
Miss Camilla Ware-Fredriksson, Plymouth, 32, senior occupational therapist. Sweden. Adolescent mental health services.
Miss Anna Wells, Kingston, 16, 6th form student. Canada. New perspectives on BSE.
Dr Deborah Wells, Belfast, 27, post doctoral research fellow. US. The welfare of rescue-sheltered dogs.
Mr Keith Wells, Maghull, 51, deputy headteacher. US. Improving self esteem and personal effectiveness in the young.
Ms Sue Wild, Gateshead, 38, trainer and adventure instructor. Nepal. Adventure for disadvantaged young women.
Mrs Maria Williams, Caerphilly, 25, software engineer: programmer. US. Climbing of "El Capitan": 1st British woman.
Miss Catherine Winkler, Cardiff, 34, primary schools programme manager. Australia. Science Centres as a resource for primary schools.
Mr Alan Wolinski, Leeds, 45, regional manager. US. The link between animal cruelty and human violence.
His Honour John Herbert Wroath, Cowes, 66, retired judge. Australia. The transportation of child criminals.
Ms Barbara Yates, Carlisle, 48, health and fitness development officer. US. Physical activity challenges for the older age group.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Baillie and Miss V.J. Hornby
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of the late Mr Patrick Baillie and of Mrs Baillie, of Henfield, West Sussex, and Ginny, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hornby, of Minety, Wiltshire.

Mr A.J.R. Berens and Miss E.L.E. Holland
The engagement is announced between Archie, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry Berens, of Bentworth, Hampshire, and Emma, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Holland, of Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

Mr R.O. Brown and Dr F.L.M. Haworth
The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Brown, of Hellingly, East Sussex, and Fiona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Haworth, of Waddington, Lancashire. The wedding will take place in August.

Mr D.W. Browne and Miss E.C. Storey
The engagement is announced between Darran, son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Browne, of Wolston, Warwickshire, and Eleanor, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Storey, of Lower Beeding, West Sussex.

Mr F.W.H. Ghali and Miss L.G. Buchanan
The engagement is announced between Farid, only son of Mr and Mrs W.H.R. Ghali, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Lorna, younger daughter of the late Mr T.O. Buchanan, and of Mrs P.M. Buchanan, of Rhu, Argyll and Bute.

Mr T.E.H. James and Miss C.D.P.G. Agnew
The engagement is announced between Tim, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas James, of West Linton, Peebles-shire, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr Rudolph Agnew, of Kington Langley, Wiltshire, and The Hon Mrs Clare Agnew, of Fulham, London.

Mr R.W.G. Chiesman and Miss V.J.L. Shaw
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs David Chiesman, of Blackheath, and Victoria (Vicky), daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Shaw, of Edgware, Middlesex.

Mr C.J. Dutton and Miss A.J. Musson
The engagement is announced between Christopher John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Dutton, of Maidstone, Kent, and Annabel Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Musson, of Toronto, Canada.

Mr M.C.L. Parkinson and Miss C.V. McKeown
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Wing Commander and Mrs Richard Parkinson, of Felixstowe, Suffolk, and Clare, second daughter of Brigadier and Mrs John McKeown, of Cawood, North Yorkshire.

Mr A.G. Sandars and Miss V.J. Nelson
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Colonel and Mrs Hugh Sandars, of Micheldever, Hampshire, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Nelson, of Old Gledstone, near Skipton, North Yorkshire.

Mr M.M. Simon and Miss E.S. Crayson
The engagement is announced between Mathew, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Simon, and Emma, younger daughter of Mrs Susan Crayson.

Mr W.N. Stenning and Miss D.R. Lloyd
The forthcoming marriage is announced and will take place on June 12, 1999, at St Stephen's, Sparsholt, Winchester, between William Stenning and Denise Lloyd.

Mr R.G.S. Woods and Miss L.S.K. Maxwell
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of the late Major Tom Woods and of Mrs Patricia Woods, of Poyntington, Dorset, and Lorna, only daughter of the Hon Simon and Mrs Maxwell, of Westcote, Oxfordshire.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Richard Amys, Rector, Gravesend Holy Family w Ifield (Rochester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Eastington and Frocester, and Standish w Haresfield and Moreton Valence w Whitminster (Gloucester).
The Rev Martin Burrell, Curate, Canterbury St Mary Bredin (Canterbury): to be Vicar, Cranbrook (same diocese).
The Rev Judith Carpenter, Curate, Warmley, Syston and Bitton (Bristol): to be Vicar, Withywood (same diocese).
The Rev Stuart Dyas, Vicar, Nottingham St Jude (Southwell): to be Vicar, Long Eaton St John (Derby).
The Rev David Eady, NSM, Stratton, North Cerney, Baunton and Bagendon with special responsibility for North Cerney and Bagendon (Gloucester): to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Swindon w Uckington and Elmstone Hardwicke (House for duty) (same diocese).
Canon James Harkins SSC, Chaplain, Venice St George, Italy (Europe): to be Priest-in-Charge, Menton St John, France (same diocese).
The Rev Bruce Harrison, Vicar, Glaisdale (York): has been appointed Rector, Brotton Parva (same diocese).
The Rev David Horton, Vicar, Joydens Wood St Barnabas (Rochester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Rosherville St Mark (same diocese).
The Rev Victor Howlett, Curate, Greater Corsham (Bristol): to be Vicar, Wick w Doynton and Dyrham (same diocese).
The Rev Peter Swales, Priest-in-Charge, Horsley St Clement (Derby): to be Vicar, Heckmondwike (Wakefield).
The Rev Justyn Terry, Curate, Paddington St John the Evangelist w St Michael (London): to be Vicar, Kensington St Helen w Holy Trinity (same diocese).
The Rev Andrew Tyler, Priest-in-Charge, Norwich St Giles (Norwich): to be Priest-in-Charge, Norwich Over-the-Water St Mary Magdalene (same diocese).
The Rev Peter Watkins, Vicar, Wolston and Church Lawford, and Rural Dean of Rugby (Coventry): has been appointed Vicar, Finham St Martin in the Fields (same diocese).
The Rev Brian Williams, part-time and temporary Assistant chaplain, Sandwell Healthcare NHS Trust, and NSM, Lichfield St Chad (Lichfield): to be Chaplain, Sandwell Healthcare NHS Trust, and to continue as NSM, Lichfield St Chad (same diocese).
The Rev Richard Williams, Vicar, Alverston (Coventry): to be Rural Dean of Fosse (same diocese).
The Rev Dave Wills, Assistant Curate, Chadwell St Mary (Chelmsford): has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Darlaston St Lawrence, and Curate, Darlaston All Saints (Lichfield).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev David Hewitt, Homerton St Luke (London) to retire July 9.
The Rev Gerry Stevenson, Assistant Chaplain, HMP Wormwood Scrubs (London) retired January 1.
The Rev Alan Torry, Vicar, Gulval and Marazion (Truro) retired January 25.
The Rev Michael Waters, NSM Priest-in-Charge, Etton w Dalton Holme (York) retired March 14.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE; 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The crowds asked John, "What should we do?" John told them, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." Luke 3.10-11 (CEV).

BIRTHS

BOND - On 2nd April 1999 in Oxford, to Sarah (née Collyer) and Kingsmill, a splendid son, Oscar La Touche.

COVELL - On 31st March 1999, to Camilla (née Alison) and Andrew, a daughter, Imogen Cicely, a sister for Olivia.

CURTIS - On April 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline (née Farrant) and Simon, a son, Sebastian, a brother for Humphrey.

HAWKINS - On 2nd April 1999, to David and Tania, a daughter, Claudia Grace.

HELM/POWELL - On March 31st at The Royal Free Hospital, to Sarah and Jonathan, a daughter, Rosamund Ysolda, a sister for Jessica.

KERNER - On 27th March at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore, to Sarah (née Lolahmati) and Clive, a daughter, Cordelia Elizabeth, a sister for Frederick and Emily.

KING - On March 20th 1999 to Caroline (nee Searle) and Giles, a daughter, Phoebe Rose, a sister for Ben and Lucy.

McCORMICK - On April 2nd 1999, to Mikala (née Molbech) and Michael, a daughter, Molly Katherine, sister to Cecilia.

BIRTHS

MEIJER - On 3rd April 1999 to Sarah (née Fox) and Wouter, a son, Thomas Peter.

SIMPSON - On March 30th 1999, to Clare (née Harland) and Ian, a daughter, Annabel Marina, a sister for George.

SOUTH - On 29th March 1999, to Nicola (née Ellis) and Jeremy, a son, Oliver Thomas.

TARRANT - On 18th March 1999 at King's College Hospital, to Adele Louise (née Robertson) and Stephen Lloyd, a son, Joshua Lloyd.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

MATTINSON:HORNABROOK - Guthrie and Dorothy, now resident in Cornwall, celebrate 60 years of marriage today. Congratulations from all friends and family.

PAGE:SWAN - John and Cynthia at St George's Church Baghdad on 8th April 1939. Now at The Cottage, Hockenhull Lane, Tarvin, Chester CH3 8LB.

DEATHS

ANGLIN - Eric, retired Diplomat and Company Director of Aberdeen Sea Products, died of cancer Easter Sunday 4th April 1999.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

DEATHS

BARCLAY - Ivor of Ovingdean. On April 1st, 1999, passed away peacefully in hospital, aged 76 years. Very much loved husband of Elisabeth, dearly loved father of Christopher and Fiona, and dear grandad of Oliver and Robert. Funeral Service at St Wulfran's Church, Greenways, Ovingdean, on Monday April 12th, at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please. If desired, donations for The Martlets Hospice may be sent to Christopher Stringer Funeral Services, 67, High Street, Rottingdean, East Sussex, BN2 7HE. Tel: 01273-306000.

BIRCHENOUGH - On 4th April, peacefully in the Conquest Hospital, Hastings, Humphrey Peter, aged 82. Dear father of Jane and the late Charles and stepfather to Jeremy and a dearly loved grandfather. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Northiam, nr. Rye on Friday, 16th April at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if wished, payable to Cancer Research c/o J Perigoe & Son, Bank Street, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3EF. Tel: 01580 713636.

BOURKE-BORROWES - Elisabeth "Betty" (née Burgess and formerly married to R.N. Burton), died aged 93 on March 30th. Much loved by her sons Richard and Kildare and her five grandchildren. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium, Friday 9th April at 1.30. Family and close friends only.

BOYD - John Malcolm on April 2nd aged 84, much loved husband of Cié and father of Nicholas, Matthew and Simon. Private funeral to be followed by a memorial service on Thursday April 15th at 2.30 pm at St Peter's Church, Draycott, near Cheddar, Somerset.

BRAIN - Lt-Col. Ronald Thompson, MC, Royal Engineers, peacefully on 5th April 1999, in his 90th year. For over 60 years devoted husband of the late Christabel (Wheatley). Funeral Service at St John's, Ladbroke Grove, London W11, on Tuesday 13th April at 1 pm, followed by cremation. Flowers to H.J. Bent, 343 Ladbroke Grove, W10 6HA; or donations, if desired, to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, 1 Bentinck Street, London W1M 5RN.

BUNCH - Katherine Louise Staunton on Easter Sunday 4th April after a brief illness aged 93, of Sherborne, Dorset. Dearly loved aunt, great-aunt and good friend. Service Castleton Church, Sherborne, Friday April 9th at 2.30 pm. Flowers or donations if desired for Y.W.C.A. c/o Easons Funeral Director, Sherborne. (01935) 813479.

CROSSLEY - Anna Audrey peacefully at Lymington Hospital on April 2nd aged 96. Memorial Service at All Saints Church, Dibden at 10.30 am Monday 19th April. Flowers or if wished donations to the R.N.L.I. Funeral Director: R. Hallam, Holbury, Southampton SO45 2PA.

DAY - K. Anne (née Arnold) peacefully on Easter Sunday April 4th 1999 aged 88 at Little Court Nursing Home, Speldhurst. Beloved wife of the late Geoffrey M. Day of Maidstone, Sutton Valence and Lenham, Kent and adored mother of Felicity, Peter, Susan and Timothy and devoted grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Charing Crematorium Tuesday 13th April at 2 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund via Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1SD.

DOREY - Sheila Margaret (née Rounthwaite), dearly loved wife of Michael and mother of Helen and Hugh and a much loved granny, died peacefully at home on 5th April after a long illness borne with great courage. Funeral at All Hallows' Church, Henshaw on Monday 12th April at 10.30 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to Leukaemia Research.

EVANS - On 4th April at Haslemere John Winston, husband of the late Ingeborg. Formerly of F.A.O. Rome. No flowers please. Enquiries to G.M. Luff & Partners Ltd. - 01428 643524.

FLOWERS - Michael Henry, lover of life and challenge, on April 3rd, aged 67, peacefully at home after an illness fought with characteristic courage and determination. Beloved husband of Jean and adored father of Louise and Mims and dearly loved grandpa of Barley. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Mary Magdalene Church, Stoke Bishop, at 12 noon on Wednesday, 14th April followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but any donations in his memory, may be sent to Macmillan Nurses c/o Co-operative Funeral Services, 30 High Street, Westbury on Trym, Bristol.

GRENFELL - Vladimir died 6th April 1999, aged 79, after a long illness. Husband of Rachel, father of Ana and David. Funeral private.

HAWKINS - Sir Howard Caesar, Bt. Peacefully in hospital in Cape Town on 2nd April, aged 42 years. A much loved son, brother and uncle who will be dearly missed by his loving family and all who knew him. A Memorial Service will be held at The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Johannesburg on Thursday 8th April.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

JOHNSTONE - Major Hubert Ian Noel Hope on March 31st, peacefully in hospital, aged 84. Much loved father of Robin and Rosanna and grandfather of Clara and Oliver. Beloved husband of Elizabeth. Family only cremation. Thanksgiving Service will be held on 29th April at St John the Evangelist, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wiltshire at 4 pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired, to Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Broadway House, The Broadway, London SW19 1RL.

KELSALL - Colonel John Michael (retd) late R.C.T. on Monday 29th March 1999 after a long illness. Much loved husband and very special friend of Jean, brother of Barbara. Funeral Service on Monday 12th April at Holy Trinity Church, Greys Hill, Henley-on-Thames at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to The Renal Fund, Royal Berkshire Hospital, c/o Tomalin & Son: Tel 01491-573370.

KENADJIAN - Arto passed away peacefully shortly before his 89th birthday. The funeral service will take place on Thursday 15th April at Ivy Cottage Church, Didsbury at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Southern Cemetery. Any donations to the Crusaders Union, 2 Roundend Hill, St Albans, AL3 4ET. All enquiries to William Peacock tel: 445 3397.

LACY - Margaret Agnes. Died peacefully at Guildford Hospital on March 29th aged 88. Wife of the late William Lacy. Will be always remembered for her laughter and cheerfulness and kindness to those in need. Will be greatly missed by her son Sterling and the rest of her family. During her life time she gave very generously to charities, friends and relations. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium on Tuesday 13th April 12 midday. Family flowers only please. Donations to Help the Aged c/o Mullard Funerals, 121 High Street, Godalming, GU7 1AQ.

McCAFFRY - Joseph Noel Fitzpatrick. Died peacefully on April 6th aged 86. Service and interment at St Joseph's R.C. Church, Bishop Thornton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire on Tuesday April 13th at 11am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Macmillan Harrogate & District Appeal, Harrogate District Hospital, Lancaster Park Road, Harrogate HG2 7SX. No letters please.

NEVE - Lorna Margaret. Died peacefully in her sleep on 5th April 1999, aged 95. Much loved Aunt of Nicholas and Patricia Neve, Great-Aunt of James, Simon and Christopher, and revered and amusing friend to many generations. A "short" service will be held at Hereford Crematorium at 2 pm on Thursday April 15th. Details of a service of thanksgiving, to be held at Benenden, Kent, in June, will be announced later.

PECK - Bob died after a long illness on April 4th aged 53. He will be sadly missed by his wife Jill and children Hannah, George and Milly. The funeral service will take place at St John's Church, Spencer Hill, Wimbledon on Wednesday 14th April at 11 am, followed by private cremation. No flowers but donations if desired to Magic Bullet Fund c/o F.W. Paine, 29 Coombe Road, Norbiton, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AY, tel: (0181) 546-4813.

PIERCE - Col. Thomas A. (R.W.F.), of Lon-y-Llan, Valley, Anglesey, beloved husband of the late Enid, died on April 6th after a short illness, stoically borne. His love, friendship, integrity and humour will be greatly missed by all his family and his many friends but most especially by his sons, Howard and Ianto, their wives Gillian and Reldun, his grandchildren Huw, Tristan, Ingrid and Ewan, his sisters Jessie and Efrya, his brother William, his sister-in-law Mona and brother-in-law David and his many nieces and nephews. The funeral service will be held at St Mihangel yn Nhowyn (The Church at R.A.F. Valley) on Monday 12th April at 12 mid-day followed by a private cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers gratefully received towards the fund for the maintenance of St Mary's Churchyard at Llanfairneubwll per Griffith Roberts & Son, Preswylfa, Valley, Anglesey, LL65 3EA.

REX - Beryl, peacefully at home in Winchester on 2nd April 1999. Formerly of Halsey Street, Chelsea and Tangier. Beloved wife of the late Leon Rex. Funeral Service at St Mary's Chapel, Chesil House, Winchester on Tuesday 13th April at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Jno. Steel & Son, tel: (01962) 844044.

RICHARDS - Marjorie Josephine (née Enthoven) aged 82 on April 4th in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Much loved mother of Mary, Francis and Hugh, grandmother of four. Requiem Mass at St Francis of Assisi, Pottery Lane, W11 on Friday April 9th at 11 am. Flowers welcome or donations if preferred to CAFOD. Funeral Directors John Nodes, 181 Ladbroke Grove, W10, tel: (0181) 969-1819.

SANDERS - James Alexander (Jim) in a tragic accident on Easter Monday 5th April 1999. Much loved son, brother and friend. Funeral at 12 noon on Tuesday 13th April at the Holy Redeemer, Cheyne Row, London SW3. Flowers to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260b Fulham Road, London SW10 (0171-352 0008) followed immediately by burial at Brompton Cemetery, London SW5.

SCADDAN - Jean (née Duff) died suddenly on Easter Sunday aged 79. Sadly missed by all her loving family. Funeral 14th April at 11.15 am Sunbury Methodist Church. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o Lodge Bros., Sunbury Cross, Middlesex.

BOB PECK

Bob Peck, actor, died of cancer on April 4 aged 53. He was born on August 23, 1945.

A highly adaptable and accomplished actor, Bob Peck was well known to audiences at both the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, and had appeared in many films and television dramas, often of a socially committed kind. As he said when he played Tom Paine at the Donmar Warehouse in 1989: "It's nice to be able to sympathise with what you're having to say."

He had acted in Pinter, Ayckbourn and Chekhov, played Iago at Stratford, and appeared in more than 20 television parts, and in 1993 he came to international attention when he appeared in the dinosaur movie *Jurassic Park*. Particularly after his success in the television drama *Edge of Darkness*, he tended to be cast in dour, introspective parts, but he also enjoyed comedy when the chance arose.

The son of a Yorkshire insurance man and the second of three brothers, Bob Peck did a diploma at Leeds College of Art and was a keen amateur actor, but not initially sure what career to follow. He had been with the National Youth Theatre in London as a teenager, but loathed it. He was painting scenery when he was offered his first acting job by Alan Ayckbourn in Scarborough: Mr Whatnot in *Mr Whatnot*.

Several years of touring in rep followed, until he finally auditioned for a David Storey play at the Royal Court. After that, he did a short stint in Birmingham before joining the RSC in 1975.

There he began by playing Malvolio on regional tour; he would eventually go on to play Macbeth, Caliban and Edward Bond's Lear in a single season. "By the time I got to Enobarbus," he recalled, "I was so tired I kept falling asleep during the rehearsals." Along the way he had a part in the RSC's enormously successful *Nicholas Nickleby* and in the subsequent film.

Rather reticent and more shy about his feelings than many in his profession, he was occasionally known as "Pause Peck" because of his Yorkshire silences. He was respected as a good company actor, however, and was given parts by most of the RSC directors, including Ronald Eyre, Howard Davies, Barry Kyle, John Caird, Adrian Noble and Bill Alexander.

Peck's time at the RSC coincided with the best years of Trevor Nunn's regime, and the two men enjoyed a productive relationship, but working for the company meant that Peck never came home before 11.30 at night, and with young children he was ready for a change by the time he left in 1984.

He did not have to wait long for a major television success. In the 1985 thriller series *Edge of Darkness*, about the threat of nuclear pollution, Peck played a detective who penetrates a secret underground reactor while searching for the true cause of his daughter's death. Tall and good looking, with a certain quizzical seriousness, Peck was well suited to play the part of the family man caught up in a plot or a disaster, and the makers of such grim dramas were to turn to him again and again.



Peck in 1985, the year that *Edge of Darkness* made him a television star — of a rather forbidding kind

Much of the action of the series, which boasted music by Eric Clapton, was filmed in a cavernous disused mine in Wales which had been used to store works of art during the war. "We spent three weeks in the depths of the earth without seeing any daylight," Peck said. The conditions were far from ideal for filming — with rats running around, water dripping down the walls and fears that the shoot-out scenes might bring down the roof — but Peck came away with a great regard for the miners who had hewn eerie caverns the size of St Paul's by brute force.

At the Bafta awards, *Edge of Darkness* was voted Best Drama Serial of the Year, with Peck as Best Actor, and after the Chernobyl disaster, it was shown in Greece, Sweden and Denmark. Convinced of the dangers that the series had highlighted, Peck subsequently became involved in anti-nuclear pressure groups.

There were occasional gaps in his schedule — at one time he was recording voiceovers for BP, British Gas, British Steel and the Coal Board — but generally he was able to choose the kind of cerebral, challenging work he enjoyed. This included a television drama about the first days of the Falklands conflict, *An Ungentlemanly Act*, which was largely filmed on the islands, and *Who Bombed Birmingham?*, about the Birmingham Six. Other work included *The Taming of the Shrew* for Radio 3.

By 1987 he was as busy as any actor could wish, and appearing in a host of different media. That year he appeared on television in Simon Gray's black comedy *After Pilkington*, in the film of Bruce Chatwin's *On the Black Hill*, in Alan Ayckbourn's National Theatre hit *A Chorus of Disapproval*, and in his first commercial West End production, Ronald Harwood's *J. J. Farr* at the Phoenix Theatre with Albert Finney.

During the making of *On the Black Hill*, Peck had to learn various pastoral tasks, such as ploughing, and was also required to throw himself in front of a wild horse to be kicked to death — but the animal would not co-operate, and eventually Peck had to be disposed of by other means. "I've worked with them all," he said, "dogs, sheep, horses, amateurs, *first-time directors . . .*"

Directors liked him, not least for his patience when a scene had to be shot repeatedly. Robert Young, for instance, paid tribute to his "amazing ability to reproduce what appear to be spontaneous moments again and again without effort".

In 1989 Peck played in Arthur Miller's short new theatre piece *Two-Way Mirror* at the Young Vic, where David Thacker had so impressed the American playwright, and the following year he was there again as Walter in Miller's *The Price* (1968).

Also at the end of the 1980s he was to be seen in the BBC's *One Way Out*, playing an architect whose ex-wife is attacked in front of their children, moving him to vengeance. Shortly beforehand, Peck's own wife, Jill Baker, had starred in a drama about mistreatment of children, and the couple were characteristically affected by the parts they played.

Further television work followed, including the psychological thriller *Children Crossing* and a play about the Romanian Revolution, with Bernard Hill. In 1992 Peck played an advertising executive trying to find the killer of his former girlfriend in David Pirie's three-part thriller *Natural Lies*, a controversial and polemical piece about the danger of BSE spreading to human beings.

In 1995 Peck's performance as Rutherford in Githa Sowerby's *Rutherford and Son* at the National Theatre was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award. Last year he had a part in a radio play by Howard Brenton about Suez, with Alec McCowen and Trevor Peacock, and was seen on television in the unpleasant tale of rural perversion *The Scold's Bridle*.

Bob Peck's cancer was diagnosed several years ago, just before he was due to fly to Australia to act the part of a cancer specialist in *Children of the Dragon*. He had surgery and did not work for several months. He is survived by his wife and by their son and two daughters.

WILLIAM PLEETH

William Pleeth, cellist, died on April 6 aged 83. He was born on January 12, 1916.

WILLIAM PLEETH was one of Britain's finest cellists, whose renown as a teacher was spread even wider through his most celebrated pupil, Jacqueline du Pré. She was sent to study with him when she was ten, and her progress was such that she won the Suggia Gift in the next year, and a year later still, at Pleeth's recommendation, made her first public appearance with a brilliant performance of Lalo's Cello Concerto at the Guildhall School of Music under Norman Del Mar.

Some film from later in her career shows teacher and pupil in duets, with Pleeth happily setting and following example, the music passing between them as a creative conversation. She liked to refer to him as her "cello daddy". He was much less happy when it was falsely alleged that he had coached the actress for the recent film *Hilary and Jackie*, from which he sharply dissociated himself.

Pleeth was a major artist in his own right, whose career might have gone further and higher with a greater drive of soloistic ambition. As it was, he became best known as a chamber musician. Born in London, he studied from the age of seven at the London Academy and London Cello School. He then went to Leipzig to Julius Klengel, a dry artist but a skilled and responsive teacher whose pupils had included Suggia, Feuermann and Piatigorsky. Pleeth made his debut there with the Gewandhaus Orchestra in 1932 in Haydn's concerto, then his British debut at the Grotrian Hall in London in the following year.

William Pleeth with his pupil Jacqueline du Pré

His vigorous and impassioned musicianship (well matched to the strong, warm tone he drew from his 1732 Stradivarius) quickly brought him to public attention, both as a soloist for whom various composers were happy to write works and as a sonata player. He toured internationally and his recordings include much admired performances of sonatas by Brahms, Mendelssohn and Grieg.

In 1936 Pleeth joined the Blech Quartet, remaining with them until 1941; he was also cellist of the Allegri Quartet from its foundation in 1953 until 1967. Members of both quartets considered him the finest chamber music cellist they had worked with, one who did not say much in rehearsal but who contributed immensely to their performances.

He was also in demand by other quartets for works requiring an extra cello. With the Amadeus Quartet he frequently played Schubert's C major Quintet, in whose sublime Adagio the extra cello becomes something of a soloist in his own right, duetting with the first violin. Pleeth's artistry with the Amadeus leader, Norbert Brainin, can be appreciated on their famous record of the work. It was their performance in a concert that inspired Jacqueline du Pré's mother to seek him out as a teacher for her daughter.

In 1948 Pleeth's qualities brought him as Professor of Cello and Chamber Music to the Guildhall School, where he remained for thirty years. His kindness to students was legendary, though this never meant any relaxing of standards, whether over matters of interpretation or with the subtle and selfless skills involved in chamber music. He was also expert as a director of masterclasses, in which his exuberant personality worked upon students by different means. Every student was to him an individual, with particular gifts to be brought out.

Pleeth's achievements were publicly recognised by his appointment as OBE in 1989. The regard in which he was held by his colleagues and by students of several generations was shown when a large gathering assembled at the Wigmore Hall in April 1996 for his 80th birthday. The concert included works by Mozart and Haydn, as well as Schubert's C major Quintet, in which the extra cellist was his son Anthony. It was a characteristic gesture that he should have donated proceeds from the concert to the Jacqueline du Pré memorial research fund for multiple sclerosis.

His is survived by his wife Margaret Good, with whom he often performed, and by a daughter and a son, the cellist Anthony Pleeth.

RED NORVO

Red Norvo, jazz musician, died on April 6 aged 91. He was born on March 31, 1908.

RED NORVO'S efforts established the xylophone — which had been regarded as little more than a vaudeville novelty instrument — as a distinctive voice in jazz. Along with Lionel Hampton, he also pioneered the more mellow tones of the vibraphone. A man of impeccable tastes, he won the respect of musicians as distinctive as Charles Mingus and Frank Sinatra.

Norvo's nickname derived from the bright red hair that he inherited from his Scottish ancestors. Born Kenneth Norville, he gained his new surname by mistake early in his career when a reviewer repeated a master of ceremonies' error of pronunciation. Grateful for publicity of any kind, Norvo decided not to bother seeking a correction.

Red Norvo turned the vibraphone into a serious voice in the jazz firmament

The son of a railway dispatcher, he grew up in Beardstown on the Illinois River, and as a boy was captivated by the riverboat entertainers and dance bands that passed through. One formative experience was hearing the legendary cornet player Bix Beiderbecke with the saxophonist Frankie Trumbauer. Later, Norvo was to make a startling version of Beiderbecke's impressionistic piano study *In a Mist*.

Norvo also claimed to have heard Louis Armstrong for the first time on a riverboat. In his early teens he fell under the spell of the marimba, which he had heard being played in a theatre pit band. He took a labouring job on the railway to save up money to buy a xylophone, and taught himself the rudiments.

Vaudeville beckoned, but Norvo was eager to move on and took up a job with NBC in Chicago in 1929. It was while playing alongside the popular concert orchestra of Paul Whiteman — the self-styled "King of Jazz" — that Norvo met his future wife, the singer Mildred Bailey. They married in 1930.

By this stage Norvo was also playing the new-fangled vibraphone (or vibraharp, as he preferred to call it), a variant on the xylophone with aluminium keys set above fan-driven resonating tubes to create a fuller vibrato.

He prided himself on not relying on mechanical enhancement, concentrating rather on weaving attractive melodic lines and forceful rhythmic patterns.

Despite resembling a seaside postcard image of enormous wife and thin husband, Bailey and Norvo developed a profound musical understanding, and in the 1930s they were dubbed "Mr and Mrs Swing". Norvo's compact band was leading one of the most intelligent groups in the jazz world, providing a congenial home for the arranger Eddie Sauter, who went on to great success with Benny Goodman and Stan Getz.

Overshadowed by the raucous playing of bands such as Goodman's, however, Norvo failed to make a strong impression with the dance-crazy public. Bailey's worsening diabetes was another blow, curtailing her touring schedule.

Her temperamental make-up increasingly strained the marriage, and they divorced in 1943 though they remained friends until Bailey's premature death in 1951. Unable to sustain his own band in a hostile economic environment, Norvo joined Benny Goodman's immaculate sextet in 1944, by which time he had switched almost entirely to the vibraphone. Unlike Goodman and most swing players, he was sympathetic to the angular new sounds of bebop fermenting in New York's clubs.

In 1945 he organised a ground-breaking recording session for the Comet label, bringing together old-school musicians such as the pianist Teddy Wilson and the Young Turks Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. Tracks such as *Congo Blues* created a striking blend of styles old and new. "Bird and Diz were dirty words for musicians of my generation," Norvo later explained. "But jazz had always gone through changes, and in 1945 we were in the middle of another one. Bird and Diz were saying new things in an exciting way. I had a free hand, so I gambled."

In the postwar years Norvo settled in California. His taste for challenges had drawn him to a subtle trio format, creating ethereal "chamber jazz", without drums or piano. The guitarist Tal Farlow played a key role in a group of three equals, and Norvo's talent-spotting instincts were underlined when he recruited a young bassist, Charles Mingus, who went on to establish himself as arguably the most significant bandleader of the modern era.

Even Mingus was intimidated by the brisk tempos that Norvo laid down for his sidemen. The more reflective side of Norvo's music received ample exposure on a 1957 date, *Just a Mood*, with the tenor saxophonist Ben Webster and the trumpeter Harry Edison. The tracks were later reissued on an elegant RCA Bluebird disc, which also featured collaborations with reeds player Jimmy Giuffre and trumpeter Shorty Rogers.

Norvo's relationship with Rogers extended beyond the recording studio; in 1946 he had married Rogers's sister, Eve.

In 1939 Norvo had been one of the first musicians to appreciate the artistry of the young Frank Sinatra. He was in fact so impressed that he offered him a job. Sinatra, however, was already committed to a contract with the bandleader Harry James.

Sinatra remained an admirer of Norvo's style nevertheless. It was no coincidence that one of the best of the singer's early Capitol albums, *Swing Easy*, features a vibraphone-based backing group — or that Norvo's early sideman Bill Miller went on to serve as Sinatra's accompanist for some 40 years. In the 1950s Sinatra helped to find work for Norvo in Las Vegas and hired him for a sequence in the film *Kings Go Forth*.

The relationship came to fruition in a series of concerts in 1959. A recording of one performance, in Melbourne, Australia, was finally given an official release on a Blue Note disc in 1997. Despite the less than perfect sound quality, it fully justified claims that Norvo's immaculate quintet prompted some of the most relaxed and effervescent singing Sinatra ever put on record.

Hopes of a reunion were dashed by scheduling problems. Norvo, though, remained active far into old age, venturing forth from his Santa Monica home for dates with Tal Farlow and other peers until a stroke ended his career.

Eve Rogers died in 1992. Norvo is survived by his daughter, Portia.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

[S]TOTT - Joseph Frederick, passed away peacefully at home in Hove on April 5th aged 90. Dearly loved by his wife Julie and children and step-children Pat, Jennifer, Susan, Paul and Michael, Chris and Suzanne, and by many grandchildren, and by his late wife Anne. Service at Woodvale Brighton Crematorium (North Chapel) on Monday April 12th at 1.30 pm. Enquiries and flowers please to Bungard & Sons Ltd., Funeral Directors 01273-820018.

[T]HURSTON - Minnie Audrey - On 5th April 1999, in Reigate. Aged 98 years. Widow of Maurice J. Thurston. Much loved aunt and friend. Funeral service on Thursday 15th April 11.30 am at Buckland Church followed by cremation at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to P.D.S.A. or Age Concern c/o Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, RH1 6AZ.

[W]IGHT-BOYCOTT - Alexander Hubert Peter of Newnham, Northants., died at home on 2nd April. The funeral service will take place on Tuesday 13th April at the Counties Crematorium, Milton Malsor, Northampton at 1pm. Family flowers only by request. Any enquiries to John Ward & Son Funeral Directors, tel: (01327) 300033.

WATSON - A R C "Ralph" died peacefully on Easter Sunday aged 88 years. The dearly loved husband of Daphne and of the late Joy Saxton. Wonderful father of Anni, David and Terence and loved and respected step-father of Peter, Marion, Susan and Richard Griffiths. Dear brother of Milly Jaques and the late Jimmy Watson. Grandfather to 18 and great-grandfather of 5. Ralph was a master at Papplewick School, Ascot from 1960-1978. The Service of Thanksgiving will be at St John's Church, Windlesham on Monday 12th April at noon. Please wear bright colours. No flowers but donations to the MacMillan Nurses Fund c/o Funeral Directors, Ford Mears, 26 Frimley High Street, Frimley, Surrey.

YATES - Frances Elizabeth White passed away peacefully on Tuesday morning. Beloved mother and grandmother. There will be a funeral service at St Peter's, Lynchmere at 2.30 pm on Saturday 17th April.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BARKLEY - 8th April 1995. From those who will always remember - a time we will never forget. Paul and Margaret.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT & SOCIAL

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ON THIS DAY

April 8, 1925

In 1925 a motorist in London could still legitimately park his car without any restriction in certain parts of Piccadilly, Regent Street, Pall Mall or Berkeley Square. The list given here is not comprehensive.

LONDON PARKING: AN APPROVED LIST

IT IS a frequent complaint of motorists who desire to park their cars in the centre of London either that they are unaware of the parking places approved by the police or that these parking places are altered without the general public being informed of the fact. The matter has been raised in the House of Commons by Captain Arthur Evans, MP, who was informed that the Commissioner's practice has been to notify the allocation of parking places to the Royal Automobile Club, the Automobile Association, and the principal business houses and clubs in the vicinity. Any withdrawal from the list is notified in the same way.

An example of the difficulty of the motorist was given in a further answer by Mr. Godfrey Locker-Lampson, the Under-Secretary for Home Affairs, who stated that 32 persons had been summoned for leaving cars in Sackville Street and Albemarle Street after those places had been withdrawn from the Commissioner's list of parking places. He added that notice of withdrawal had been given in the manner explained, and, for a period, a constable was posted there to warn persons against leaving their cars.

In view of the difficulty experienced by motorists visiting London who do not know where they may safely park their cars, a list of approved parking stations has now been drawn up. The arrangements made for the most important West London thoroughfares are shown in the following list:

PICCADILLY (between Berkeley Street and Hamilton Place) — On the south side of Piccadilly by the Park railings at the following places:- From the post indicating the 10 miles speed limit opposite Hamilton Place to the lamp standard opposite No. 137, Piccadilly. Opposite the site for the Park Lane Hotel, keeping clear of the omnibus stopping place. From opposite the east end of No.105, Piccadilly, to a point opposite the west end of White Horse Street. From the sand-bin opposite White Horse Street to a point opposite No.93 Piccadilly. By the use of the north side of St. James's Square.

PALL MALL — By the use of Waterloo Place and part of St James's Square.

REGENT STREET (between Oxford Circus and Regent Circus) — At Golden Square, around the enclosure.

WARWICK STREET — At top (eastern end) of Regent Place, by the church and extending in front of the "Follies".

CONDUIT STREET — The cab rank in the centre of the roadway may be used by "short-period" waiting vehicles, when the space is unoccupied or only sparsely used by cabs.

SAVILE ROW — On the eastern side of the roadway, the front of Messrs. Poole's premises to be kept free. To be fed either through Vigo Street or New Burlington Street.

HANOVER SQUARE — Eastern portion of the square enclosure to be utilised as far as it is not occupied by the cab rank. The western portion of the square not appropriated and used as a cab standing.

BERKELEY SQUARE — On the east and west sides thereof next the railings of the garden enclosure.

BRUTON STREET — In the centre of roadway from the west side of South Bruton Mews, extending towards Berkeley Square.

GROSVENOR STREET — Beginning west of Avery Street, extending westward as far as necessary, keeping clear of all crossings.

BROOK STREET — In the centre of roadway from New Bond Street, extending westward as far as necessary, keeping clear of all crossings.

NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE — In the centre of the roadway in front of the Hotel Metropole, beginning east of the refuge opposite Great Scotland Yard and extending eastward to within ten yards of the hotel entrance.

WHITEHALL COURT — In the centre of roadway, beginning ten yards west of the entrance to the National Liberal Club and extending as far as the building line of the War Office.

HORSE GUARDS AVENUE — Alongside the railings on the north and south of Horse Guards Avenue, but not to extend to the premises of the Junior Army and Navy Club.

BALKANS WAR

Macedonia evicts 30,000 refugees

■ The United Nations led the condemnation yesterday of a midnight raid by Macedonian troops to evict 30,000 refugees from their makeshift camp on the border. There was further alarm as the Serbs suddenly closed their borders at Blace and Jazince, ordering thousands of ethnic Albanians back to their homes in Kosovo. Nato officers fear they will be now used as human shields against allied attacks....... **Reports, pages 1, 4-9**

Cameras stalk Serbs

Yugoslav troops and paramilitaries are being monitored by an array of Western surveillance technology in the sky. When they dare to venture out, it is just a question of time before Nato bombers arrive.................. **Page 4**

Albright under fire

Madeleine Albright, the hawkish US Secretary of State, has come under heavy fire in the media for misreading President Milosevic and plunging America into a war in the Balkans without a clear idea of how to get out....... **Page 8**

Human shields used

Consistently wrong-footing his Nato enemies, President Milosevic came up with a horrific new tactic: keeping Kosovo's remaining ethnic Albanians as human shields against Nato airstrikes on his armour and infantry rather than expelling them.......... **Page 7**

Protest stamp issued

Yugoslavia has issued an anti-Nato stamp in a mark of protest at the Allied airstrikes against its towns and cities. The issue depicts a bull's eye which has become the logo of Serb demonstrators. Beneath it is written "target" and "Yugoslavia".............. **Page 9**

NEWS

Mardi Gra bomber faces long jail term

■ A 61-year-old man who waged a three-and-a-half-year campaign of terror across London and the Home Counties yesterday admitted he was the Mardi Gra bomber. Edgar Pearce faces a lengthy jail term after admitting that he tried to extort millions of pounds from Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's. Pearce, unemployed, planted a total of 36 explosive devices, the Old Bailey was told.. **Pages 1-3**

Contraception U-turn

The government has reversed policy on its advice on contraceptive pills, four years after its health warnings caused widespread panic among women and led to an estimated 30,000 abortions. The government said it "regretted" the abortions.............................. **Page 1**

Mum donates liver

A 18-month-old baby saved by the donation of part of his mother's liver was doing well in hospital after a transplant that made British medical history. Luke Betteley "is laughing and smiling and throwing his toys around," said his father David.............. **Page 13**

British tourist dies

A British schoolgirl has died in Australia while taking part in the increasingly popular adventure sport of canyoning, which involves hurtling along narrow river gorges and abseiling down waterfalls........................... **Page 11**

Women moving up

Women are gradually breaking into the male-dominated world of Asian business. There are now 16 women in the list of Britain's 200 richest Asians, according to an annual survey by *Eastern Eye* newspaper......................... **Page 15**

'Minor' painting is a Gainsborough

■ A small painting that Christie's labelled as the work of a minor 19th-century artist, worth no more than £800, has been identified as a previously unknown landscape by Thomas Gainsborough worth at least £80,000. The 18th-century work was spotted by Angus Neill, of Felder Fine Art in London, who said: "I knew it was the best picture I'd ever seen in my life"... **Page 16**

MARK BAKER / REUTERS



Baby fennec foxes get a feel for their keeper at Sydney Zoo. The world's smallest fox has distinctive ears and is native to North Africa

BUSINESS

Trade war: British exporters were left in a state of confusion after the European Commission failed to admit defeat in its long-running banana war with the US....... **Page 27**

BT move: British Telecom increased its presence in the Asia-Pacific region with the £240 million purchase of a 20 per cent share in SmarTone, a Hong Kong mobile telephone operator............. **Page 27**

Raw energy: The Government mounted a U-turn in its energy policy by clearing the way for a £300 million gas-fired power station at Baglan Bay in Wales......... **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 57.9 points to 6473.2. The pound rose 0.58 cents to $1.5956 and 0.03p against the euro to 67.66p. The sterling index rose to 101.9...... **Page 30**

SPORT

Rugby union: Nineteen-year-old Steve Hanley, from Sale, has been chosen to play on the wing for England in the Five Nations Championship grand-slam match against Wales..................... **Page 52**

Football: Arsenal's defence remains on course for a record-breaking season, but they will be without Martin Keown for two of their final Premiership matches......... **Page 52**

Cricket: Pakistan's batsmen, notably Ijaz Ahmed who scored a century, battered England's bowlers in the opening match of the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah..... **Page 48**

Bryant's Eye: Any sport that plays with danger will always have an image problem. Whenever things go wrong there is clamour to get it banned.............................. **Page 49**

ARTS

New movies: John Travolta stars as a yuppie lawyer with troubles of his own in writer-director Steve Zaillian's true-life courtroom drama *A Civil Action*, while *The Faculty* is a sci-fi chiller with a lot of entertainment value......................... **Page 35**

Star turn: John Hegley's comic poems are the hit of the evening as the Spring Loaded dance festival unveils the innovative cabaret *Elbow Room*....................... **Page 36**

Birthday boy: Richard Morrison meets the conductor Sir Neville Marriner on the eve of his 75th birthday celebration — a gala at the Festival Hall....................... **Page 37**

Classical CDs: Alfred Brendel's latest recordings of Beethoven Piano Concertos are a three-CD set to treasure........................... **Page 37**

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: New treatment for scarring; why the solar eclipse in August is worrying ophthalmologists; Bruce Chatwin's fungal disease; tomatoes........ **Page 20**

Marathon man: Chris Moon describes learning to use his new arm and leg and how he finished the London Marathon — the final extract from his book............. **Page 21**

BOOKS

Reviews: Erica Wagner finds that in Philip Casey's second novel the scarring runs deeper than the flattened London landscape. Plus, Lisa Jardine on Walter Mosley's venture into science fiction...... **Pages 38, 39**

TRAVEL

Best buys: A weekend at a four-star London hotel and seats to *Mamma Mia*; special offers on holidays in Greece's quieter resorts; Bangkok; Pattaya.............. **Page 40**

THE PAPERS

Whether Jakarta or Mr Gusmao is telling the truth about who is responsible for the violence in East Timor, the situation is clearly deteriorating. At the very least, this suggests the existing Indonesian military command in East Timor is ineffective and must be replaced. Such a move would go a long way to shoring up international confidence. A willingness by Jakarta to accept UN civilian human rights monitors would go much further.

The Sydney Morning Herald

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **EDUCATION**

Girls are so far ahead in the academic battle of the sexes that boys have become an educational underclass

■ **MEDIA**

The story behind the BBC videotape smuggled out of Kosovo

RADIO & TV

Preview: *Simon's Journey* (BBC1) follows the Falklands war veteran Simon Weston on his fundraising activities. **Review:** Joe Joseph witnesses DIY as marriage counselling.............................. **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

To will the end

This is a war that must be won — and must be seen to be won. Convinced of this, Western publics await, with mounting impatience, a clearer articulation of what "winning" would look like, and how Nato proposes to get there. There is no gain in politicians continuing to pretend that they are the only people who have neither given, nor are prepared to give, thought to the Nato endgame.................. **Page 23**

Yellow and bent

The European Union would be extremely unwise to persist in a struggle that is not in the interests of their consumers or of international commerce, or of the banana growers themselves................ **Page 23**

COLUMNS

DAVID HART

A dangerous line of argument is beginning to emerge from the fog of the Balkans war. Some, mainly conservative commentators ... are arguing, directly or by implication, that Nato should not be acting against President Milosevic.......... **Page 22**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

I rather fancy Charlie Whelan as the Daniel Defoe of his day. Gordon Brown's sometime press adviser has come to Scotland to cover the elections as a journalist and commentator. Most people suspect he may still be acting as the Chancellor's eyes and ears — a gatherer of intelligence about the state of the nation as well as a discreet propagandist for his old master....... **Page 22**

DOMINICK DONALD

The West's readiness to use air power was supposed *to show* resolve. But the West has consistently seen air power as a kind of geopolitical one-night stand — gratification without commitment........ **Page 22**

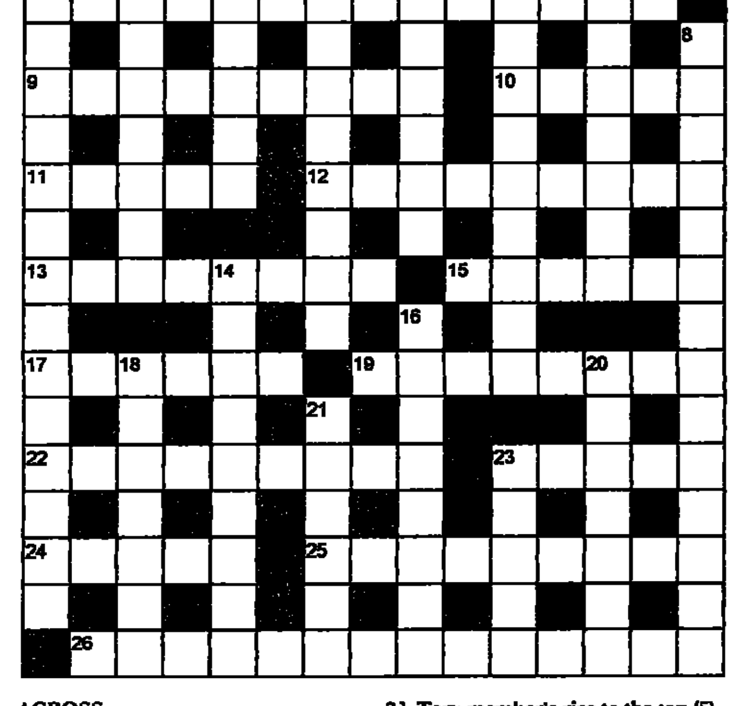
OBITUARIES

Bob Peck, actor; **Red Norvo,** vibraphone player; **William Pleeth** cellist.................................. **Page 25**

LETTERS

Milosevic's "final solution" in Kosovo; medical uses of green tea; power of the judiciary; fires in tunnels; speed-traps; playing marbles in the gutter.................................. **Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,072



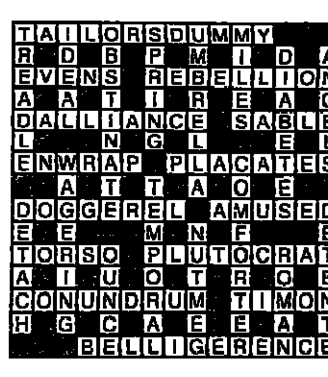
ACROSS

1 In many ways, it can help to reduce minor accidents (5.5.4).
9 Like individual I detained for slander (9).
10 Was a jumper extremely loose fitting? (5).
11 A peg before opening time (5).
12 First-rate opportunity to get place in college (9).
13 Nick drink and get arrested (3.5).
15 One chap joining another back in the doghouse (6).
17 Drop line to university, having been rejected the month before (6).
19 Report indicating gun was loaded? (8).
22 Leader can take it, ideal or otherwise (9).
23 Tory member's rise to the top (5).
24 In self-examination, about to reveal inner personality (5).
25 Painter with a fantastic talent is in business (9).
26 Call for Jacks in every round of cards possible with pack (3.5.2.4).

DOWN

1 Remarkable formation of Ulster — was a US agency involved with it? (6.8).
2 Profit from an adventure (7).
3 Brass or steel (5).
4 One who trains regularly should consider this a good deal (4.4).
5 Two sorts of evil character in Arabian Nights (6).
6 Weapons found in far from friendly nick, we hear (4.5).
7 Force Spitfire to move in a circle (7).
8 Falling over book left in buffet or bar, causing difficulty (9.5).
14 In love with way one offers unconventional treatment (9).
16 Striking strings to make rough notes, perhaps (8).
18 Old battleaxe making short work of silly man? (7).
20 Plant providing most of the fibre (7).
21 It holds food that's originally from South America (3.3).
23 Boy has a pound in cash (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,071



Times Two Crossword, page 52

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions	0336 444 910
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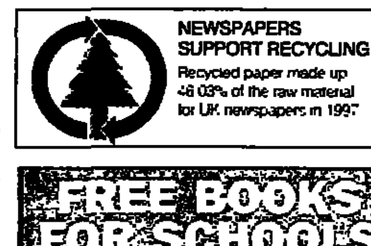
Automobile Association Developments Ltd. Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

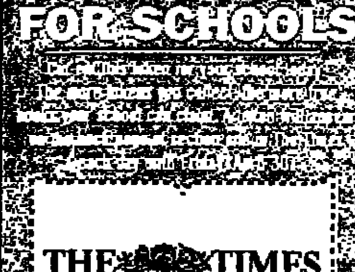
Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.21 am — Sun sets: 7.44 pm
Moon sets: 10.50 am — Moon rises: 2.09 am
Last quarter tomorrow

London 7.44 pm to 6.19 am
Bristol 7.54 pm to 6.29 am
Edinburgh 8.04 pm to 6.24 am
Manchester 7.56 pm to 6.25 am
Penzance 8.04 pm to 6.43 am







FORECAST

☐ **Today:** east and South-East England will start dry with some hazy sunshine, but it will become increasingly cloudy with a growing threat of rain this afternoon. Wales and western England will be overcast with patchy light rain and some hill and coastal mist. The Midlands and North-East England will also turn cloudy with outbreaks of drizzle. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be breezy with a lot of cloud and outbreaks of heavier rain, although Northern Ireland should become drier this afternoon.

☐ **Tonight:** most parts of the country will remain cloudy and western coasts and hills will see some mist and drizzle but any heavier rain will become confined to the east and south-east and should ease off totally by morning.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England:** early mist and fog clearing to leave some sunshine but clouding over, bringing a threat of rain in the afternoon. A light north-westerly wind. Max temp 17C (63F).

☐ **Central S England, Midlands, Channel Islands:** starting dry and bright but cloud building and bringing patchy light rain. A light west to north-westerly wind. Max temp 16C (61F)

☐ **SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** overcast with light rain. Turning misty on coasts and hills. A light west to north-westerly wind. Max temp 16C (61F).

☐ **Central N, NE England:** starting dry with some early sunny spells but soon clouding over with light rain breaking out. A light westerly wind. Max temp 15C (59F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** breezy and cloudy with rain, most of it light. A freshening south-westerly wind. Max temp 14C (57F)

☐ **SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** overcast and windy with spells of heavy rain and some fog on coasts and hills. A fresh to strong south-westerly wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Central Highlands:** overcast with outbreaks of rain, some of them heavy. Foggy over the hills. A strong south-westerly wind. Max temp 11C (52F).

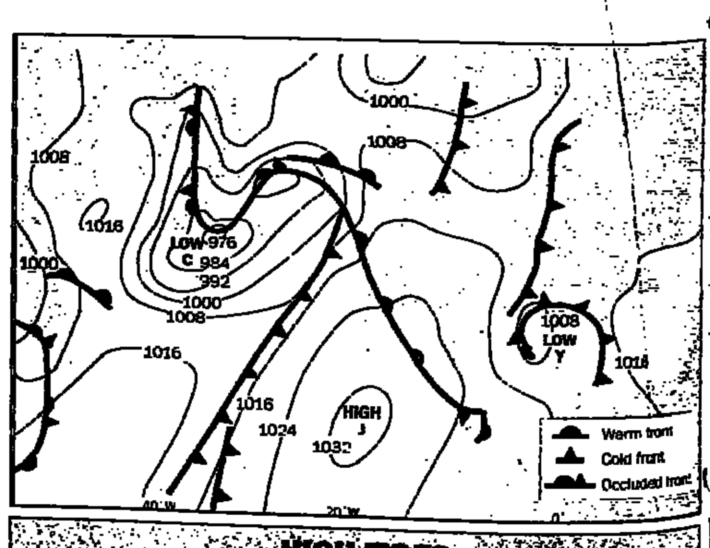
☐ **Northern Ireland:** cloudy and breezy with rain but becoming drier in the afternoon. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temp 15C (59F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** cloudy, misty start with rain in places, becoming drier with bright intervals. Wind moderate, westerly or southwesterly. Max temp 16C (61F).

☐ **Outlook:** southern parts will be mostly dry and warm tomorrow although the west of England and Wales will be cloudy with coastal fog, and rain will break out in Scotland and Northern Ireland. On Saturday, the rain will spread southwards, leaving Scotland and Northern Ireland with sunshine and showers

NOON TODAY

Changes to the chart below from noon. Low C moves NE and fills. Low Y and High J remain stationary with little change in central pressure



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright, c = cloud, d = drizzle, ds = dust storm, du = dull, f = fair, fg = fog, g = gales, h = hail, r = rain, sh = shower, sl = sleet, s = sun, t = thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.4	0.01	13	55	sh	Leeds	8.9	0.01	13	55	s
Anglesey	2.1	0.04	12	54	b	Lerwick	3.8	0.06	10	50	sh
Aspatria	2.0	0.11	12	54	sh	Littlehampton	4.1	-	15	59	c
Aviemore	4.2	0.02	13	55	sh	London	2.1	0.02	13	55	b
Belfast	4.5	0.06	13	55	sh	Lowestoft	2.7	0.01	13	55	sh
Birmingham	1.8	0.02	11	52	b	Manchester	0.6	0.07	11	52	c
Bognor R	4.9	-	13	55	s	Margate	2.6	0.01	13	55	sh
Bournemth	5.9	0.01	14	57	b	Morecambe	4.6	0.01	11	52	s
Bristol	3.3	0.03	14	57	b	Newcastle	9.0	0.01	14	57	s
Buxton	3.2	0.17	9	48	s	Newquay	5.1	0.13	11	52	b
Cardiff	5.4	0.01	14	57	b	Norwich	1.6	0.11	12	54	sh
Clacton	4.5	0.03	12	54	sh	Oxford	3.9	0.06	12	54	b
Colwyn Bay	5.1	0.04	12	54	s	Penzance	4.0	0.25	14	57	b
Cromer	0.7	0.05	12	54	c	Poole	3.1	0.01	15	59	c
Edinburgh	4.8	-	14	57	b	Prestatyn	5.3	0.01	13	55	b
Exmouth	5.0	0.04	13	55	s	Ross on Wye	4.1	0.15	13	55	b
Fishguard	0.6	0.02	10	50	c	Saunton Sands	2.9	0.05	12	54	b
Folkestone	3.3	0.01	13	55	c	Shrewsbury	5.1	0.01	14	57	sh
Glasgow	4.3	0.01	13	55	sh	Skegness	1.2	-	14	57	c
Hastings	5.7	-	15	59	b	Southend	1.3	-	13	55	c
Hayling I.	5.6	0.01	14	57	b	Southsea	4.3	-	14	57	s
Herne Bay	4.3	-	14	57	b	Stornoway	4.8	0.09	11	52	sh
Hove	4.2	-	14	57	b	Swanage	5.8	0.02	14	57	s
Hunstanton	0.4	-	12	54	c	Teignmouth	4.4	0.07	13	55	b
Isle of Man	0.3	0.06	11	52	c	Tenby	3.9	0.01	13	55	sh
Isle of Wight	X	0.01	12	54	c	Tiree	4.5	0.01	11	52	sh
Jersey	9.0	0.25	14	57	s	Torquay	4.6	0.09	15	59	b
Kinloss	2.7	0.01	13	55	sh	Weymouth	6.7	0.01	13	55	s

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	s	C'phagn	10	50	c	Majorca	23	73	s	Salzburg	18	64	s
Akrotiri	19	66	f	Corfu	21	70	s	Malaga	23	73	s	S Frisco	10	50	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dublin	13	55	f	Malta	21	70	s	Santiago	27	81	s
Algiers	23	73	s	Dubrovnik	20	68	f	Melbourne	x			S Paulo	x		
Amst'dm	11	52	r	Faro	22	72	s	Mexico C	25	77	s	Seoul	11	52	c
Athens	13	56	s	Florence	22	72	s	Miami	28	82	s	Singapore	32	90	f
Bahrain	35	95	s	Frankfurt	19	66	f	Milan	22	72	s	Stockholm	9	48	c
Bangkok	27	81	r	Funchal	19	66	s	Montreal	14	57	s	Strasb'rg	19	66	f
Barbados	28	82	f	Geneva	20	68	s	Moscow	1	34	c	Sydney	21	70	f
Barcelona	20	68	s	Gibraltar	20	68	s	Munich	17	63	f	Tangier	24	75	s
Beijing	19	66	s	Helsinki	3	37	c	Nairobi	24	75	f	Tel Aviv	21	70	c
Beirut	20	68	f	Hong K	27	81	s	Naples	x			Tenerife	23	73	s
Belgrade	19	66	f	Innsbruck	17	63	s	N Delhi	34	93	s	Tokyo	13	55	r
Berlin	18	64	f	Istanbul	12	54	s	N York	16	61	s	Toronto	8	46	r
Bermuda	18	64	f	Jeddah	32	90	s	Nice	15	59	s	Tunis	23	73	s
Biarritz	13	55	c	Jo'burg	24	75	s	Oslo	4	39	c	Valencia	25	77	s
Bordeaux	22	72	f	L Palmas	23	73	s	Paris	19	66	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	f
Brussels	15	59	c	Le Touquet	11	52	f	Perth	x			Venice	19	66	s
Budapest	19	66	f	Lisbon	21	70	s	Prague	15	59	f	Vienna	19	66	s
B Aires	19	66	f	Locarno	19	66	s	Reykjavik	7	45	c	Warsaw	12	54	r
Cairo	22	72	f	L Angeles	11	52	r	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	17	63	s
Cape Tn	24	75	s	Luxembg	18	64	f	Rio de J	26	79	s	Zurich	20	68	s
Chicago	8	46	f	Luxor	27	81	s	Riyadh	39	102	s				
Cologne	19	66	f	Madrid	24	75	s	Rome	18	64	s				

Temperatures at midday local time Tuesday. x = not available

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	5:40	3.4	18:21	3.3	Liverpool	3:10	7.8	15:34	[illegible]
Avonmouth	11:00	10.3	23:18	10.0	London Bridge	6:03	6.2	18:18	[illegible]
Belfast	3:21	3.0	16:00	2.9	Lowestoft	1:53	2.1	14:02	[illegible]
Cardiff	10:46	9.6	23:04	9.4	Margate	4:09	4.2	16:29	[illegible]
Devonport	9:51	4.5	22:14	4.5	Milford Haven	10:18	5.4	22:45	[illegible]
Dover	2:48	5.6	15:17	5.5	Newquay	9.15	5.5	21:43	[illegible]
Dublin	4:07	3.4	16:58	3.3	Oban	9:39	2.9	22:36	[illegible]
Falmouth	9:22	4.3	21:45	4.3	Penzance	8:41	4.4	21:14	[illegible]
Greenock	4:32	2.8	16:45	2.7	Portland	10:33	1.3	22:40	[illegible]
Harwich	3:48	3.3	16:06	3.2	Portsmouth	3:15	3.9	15:50	[illegible]
Holyhead	2:26	4.6	14:55	4.4	Shoreham	2:57	5.0	15:24	[illegible]
Hull (Albert D)	10:22	7.3	22:57	7.0	Southampton	3:03	3.9	15:39	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	9:56	7.2	22:24	7.0	Swansea	10:31	10.2	23:04	[illegible]
King's Lynn	10:23	5.2	22:58	4.8	Tees	8:12	9.1	20:49	[illegible]
Leith	7:05	4.5	19:38	4.4	Walton-On-Naze	3:45	3.6	16:02	[illegible]

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: Boulmer, Northumberland, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 0.33in; highest sunshine: Jersey, Channel Islands, and Newcastle upon Tyne, 9.0hrs

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Hegley turns to dance
Arts, page 36

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Neville Marriner at 75
Arts, page 37

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 8 1999

Exporters baffled by banana war ruling



Barshefsky: trade test for Brussels

By Carl Mortished and Shirley English

WORRIED British exporters to America were left in a state of confusion yesterday after the European Commission failed to admit defeat in its long-running banana war with the United States.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, said that Europe reserved its right to appeal, while at the same time insisting that it would abide by World Trade Organisation rules. He said: "The unilateral US retaliation currently in place against EU exports has been and remains largely illegal."

Washington, which is claiming victory in the banana war over trade restrictions between the two continents, poured scorn on the apparent Brussels prevarication yesterday. Peter Scher, a US trade official, said: "The arbitrator's decision is final and the EU does not have the right to appeal."

A WTO arbitrator yesterday awarded $191 million in damages to the US, and a WTO panel ruled that aspects of the EU's preferential import regime for Caribbean bananas were illegal.

EU lawyers in Brussels were last night poring over the 160-page report from the WTO panel in Geneva. The report is not being released to the public, and delay will fuel further anxiety among embattled cashmere knitwear firms in the Scottish Borders

Mills around Hawick used a visit by Peter Chase, economic adviser to the US Embassy in London, to call on America to remove cashmere from the potential sanctions list and so safeguard 1,000 jobs. The Borders has been hardest hit by the banana war as almost half of all European and 90 per cent of British cashmere comes from the region.

The US has seen its original target list of exports worth $520 million cut to $191 million. A spokesman for the US Trade Representative said a revised list of import products would be issued in a couple of days but the UK is likely to figure large as a key supporter of Caribbean banana growers. The UK Department of Trade & Industry was unable yesterday to offer any reassurance to British exporters. The confusion is in part caused by the lack of any precedent. A WTO trade expert explained: "No previous dispute has ever reached this stage before of arbitration and implementation."

Led by Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, Washington has been using the banana dispute to test Brussels' commitment to the WTO rules. Beyond the banana row, another dispute is brewing over the EU ban on imports of US hormone-treated beef.

Leading article, page 23

Business Today



Graham Searjeant
The two faces of capitalism in Sunderland
page 31

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6473.2	(+57.9)
Yield	n/a	
FTSE All Share	n/a	
Nikkei	16554.50	(+74.79)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9975.70	(+12.21)*
S&P Composite	1316.89	(-1.00)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	(4¾%)
Long bond	96⅞*	(96⅞)
Yield	5.51%*	(5.52%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5¼%	(5¼%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	117.99	(117.95)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5974*	(1.5910)
London:		
$	1.5955	(1.5899)
€	1.4779	(1.4773)
SFr	2.3585	(2.3582)
Yen	183.24	(182.47)
£ Index	101.9	(101.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.0785*	(1.0832)
SFr	1.4803*	(1.4750)
Yen	121.31*	(120.60)
$ index	108.9	(109.0)

Tokyo close Yen 120.82

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$14.75	($14.93)

GOLD

London close	$280.05	($279.05)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 28

Rate hopes drive FTSE to fresh high

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

HOPES that the Bank of England will again cut interest rates pushed the stock market to a second consecutive record high yesterday, despite fresh evidence that the British economy appears to be heading for a "soft landing".

Services companies reported their strongest growth levels since last September while the pace of decline in the manufacturing sector also continued to ease.

Analysts, however, insisted that the Bank of England was more likely to be swayed by earlier data showing a sharp downwards revision to fourth-quarter GDP and subdued earnings growth. The continued strength of the pound is also considered likely to persuade the Bank to reduce rates by a quarter point to 5.25 per cent at the conclusion of the Monetary Policy Committe meeting today.

Optimism that the Bank would cut rates was reflected in the markets. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed up 57.9 at 6,473.2, having earlier peaked at an all-time trading high of 6,496.1.

The pound, however, took heart from the stronger than expected new data to recover some of the ground lost on Tuesday, when it fell to an 18-month low against the dollar.

Sterling climbed more than half a cent against the dollar to close at $1.5956. It also regained some of the overnight losses suffered against the euro, although the single currency later held firm to close at 67.66p.

European markets also enjoyed a robust start to trading, buoyed by hopes that the European Central Bank will cut European rates after its policy meeting today. Paris stocks pushed to a year high at 4,318.04 but a mixed performance on Wall Street later took a toll on some markets with shares in Frankfurt closing virtually flat.

British manufacturing output fell by 0.1 per cent between January and February leaving the annual rate of decline at 1.4 per cent compared with 0.9 per cent in the previous month. However, overall industrial production rose by 0.1 per cent over the month helped by improved utilities and mining output.

The modest improvement in the manufacturing sector's performance was also supported by a separate report from the Engineering Employers' Federation, which confirmed the pace of decline was easing. However, Alan Armitage, EEF chief economist, predicted that engineers would shed about 10 per cent of their workforce this year even if the pound began to weaken.

Employment rates in the service sector, however, have begun to grow again with the services index climbing above the break-even level for the first time in five months. Analysts cautioned, however, that some of the sharp rise may reflect a seasonal increase in optimism and could be partially reversed in the coming months.

The return to growth has also come too late to improve overall economic performance in the first quarter of the year, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which estimates first-quarter GDP growth at just 0.1 per cent.

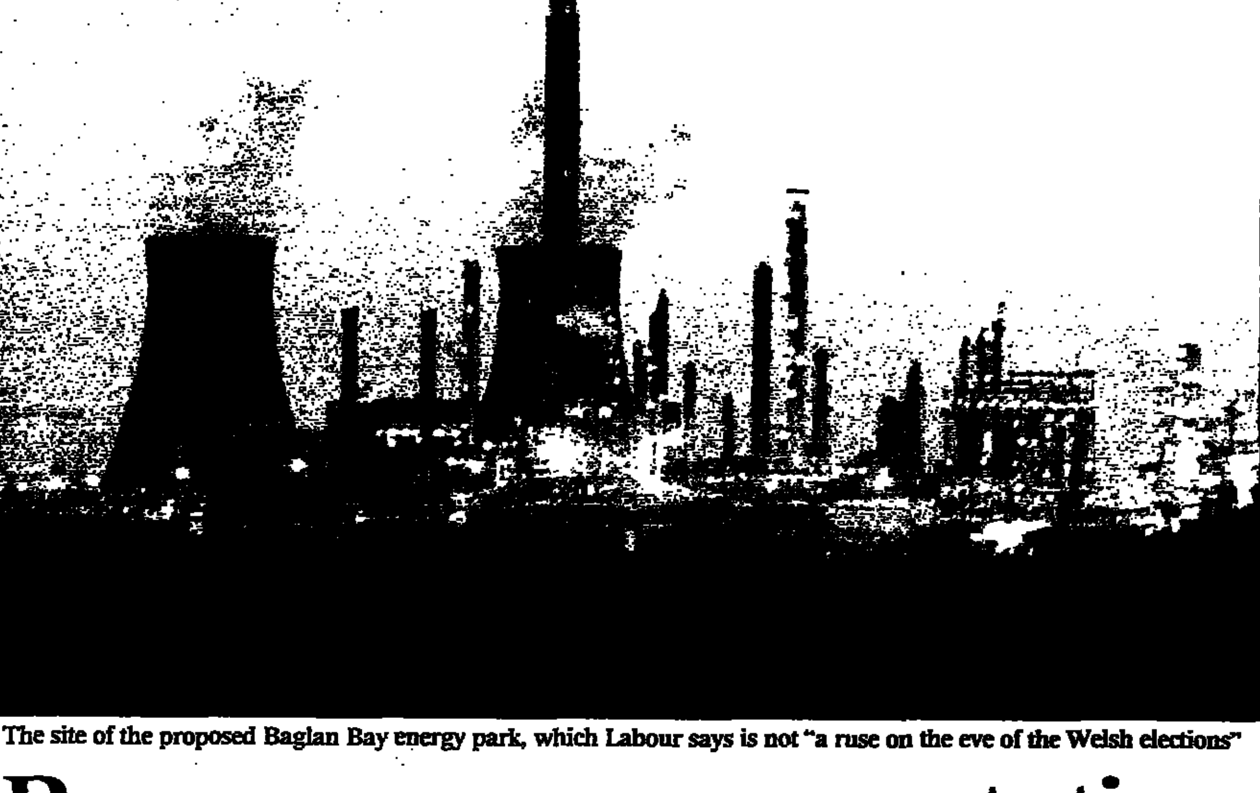
Meanwhile, the World Bank yesterday cut its forecast for global growth to 1.8 per cent this year and gave warning that emerging markets were likely to suffer the brunt of the slowdown.

The Bank said in its Global Development Finance report that developing country growth would slip to just 1.5 per cent this year, compared with a previous forecast of 2.5 per cent, and was unlikely to return to trend until 2001.

The Bank added that with about half of all global growth during the past 18 months deriving from the US, world economic growth was at risk from a sharp correction on Wall Street.

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.bankofengland.co.uk

PHIL REES



The site of the proposed Baglan Bay energy park, which Labour says is not "a ruse on the eve of the Welsh elections"

Byers approves gas station

By Christine Buckley and James Landale

THE Government yesterday did a U-turn on its energy policy by clearing the way for a £300 million new gas-fired power station in Wales, just weeks before elections for the Welsh Assembly.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said that the station at Baglan Bay would not be blocked by the current "stricter consents policy" on new gas-fired stations. The *de facto* moratorium was announced last October in order to create a more balanced energy market amid a crisis in the coal industry and a rush to use gas in power generation.

Mr Byers said the plans by General Electric and BP Amoco would bring exceptional economic benefits and regeneration prospects. It has been claimed that up to 6,000 jobs will be created by the establishment of an energy park around the station with companies moving in to take cheap power.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "This is rank electioneering. Labour clearly believes the Welsh elections are worth a few closed pits in England. How many jobs will go as a result of this electoral gesture?"

CoalPro, the coal industry trade association, is to write to Mr Byers to urge him to keep the moratorium in place. It is concerned that recent comments by Callum McCarthy and Mr Byers could result in an early end to the ban and lead to fresh uncertainty for coal producers.

The new gas station will push out about one million tonnes of coal as the market for the fuel is already sharply declining. The current coal burn in electricity generation is only about 40 million tonnes.

Peter Hain, the Welsh Office Minister, said: "This shows that the Labour Government is delivering for the people of Wales. But it is not a device or a ruse on the eve of the Welsh elections."

The Baglan Bay project, which still needs planning consents, will aim to develop 1,000 acres of industrial land. It is being backed by the Welsh Development Agency.

The power station is by far the largest to escape the moratorium. Smaller schemes with a large amount of environmentally friendly combined heat and power (CHP) have bypassed the ban. Baglan Bay's CHP element is speculative, the Government has conceded.

Other power companies are now expected to press for gas-station consents.

Commentary, page 29

Winsor calls for tougher powers

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

JOHN PRESCOTT came under pressure from his newly appointed Rail Regulator yesterday to introduce tougher regulatory powers into forthcoming legislation.

While the Deputy Prime Minister insisted that existing powers for regulators were tough enough to bring improvements on the railways, Tom Winsor, the new regulator, made it clear that he wanted more.

Making his first comments since his appointment last month, Mr Winsor, the City lawyer who takes up his role in June, admitted that he had more powers than most regulators.

However, he added: "The powers are lacking in some other respects in terms of enforcement of franchise obligations and legislation is required to improve those powers."

Mr Winsor has, in the past, frequently criticised his predecessor for failing to make enough use of powers available under existing legislation.

Mr Prescott has as yet been unable to find Parliamentary time for legislation to give statutory backing to the new regime governing the industry.

Yesterday he said that under the present regime the rules could be tightened on train companies seeking to extend their franchises.

Reed price dented by board strife

THE directors of Reed Elsevier, the international publishing and information group, are to go back to their original shortlist in the continuing eight-montht search for a new chief executive (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Late on Tuesday the Anglo-Dutch group admitted that its chosen candidate had turned them down.

The embarrassing failure to find a chief executive led to a 14p fall in the shares yesterday to 533p. A boardroom row over the issue led to the immediate resignations of directors Pierre Vinken, a former co-chairman, and Loek van Vollenhoven.

Commentary, page 29
Publishing division, page 31

BT takes stake in SmarTone

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday increased its presence in the Asia-Pacific region with the £240 million purchase of a 20 per cent stake in SmarTone, Hong Kong's third-largest mobile telephone operator.

Alfred Mockett, president and chief executive of BT Worldwide, said the deal was "an avenue to expansion in the greater China marketplace".

The SmarTone purchase takes BT's investments in minority stakes in the region to nearly £1 billion. As Asia-Pacific is seen as the engine of growth in telecoms markets BT's investments there could easily match its £3.5 billion expansion in Europe, Mr Mockett said. BT also said that it was talking to a number of partners and looking at ways of increasing its stake in Japan, the world's second-largest telecoms market.

SmarTone is third in a market of six mobile operators in Hong Kong with an 18 per cent market share and more than half a million customers. BT believes that mobile penetration in Kong Kong will grow from its present 40 per cent to 60 per cent by 2001.

In the year to June 1998 SmarTone, a Hong Kong-listed company in which the Kwok family holds a 26 per cent stake, had profits of HK$1 billion (£80 million).

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Bluewater washes over Lakeside



Bluewater: excellent trading

BLUEWATER, the massive shopping centre that opened in Kent last month, has already proved to be a huge success — but at the apparent expense of nearby Lakeside and even London's West End (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Rowland Gee, managing director of the Moss Bros men's clothing group, said yesterday that its branches of Blazer, Cecil Gee and Savoy Taylor's Guild in Bluewater have traded very well while the equivalent three stores across the Thames in the Lakeside centre in south Essex have gone quiet.

"I was in Bluewater on Good Friday and it was heaving," he said. "I then went to Lakeside and I could have fired a cannon down the central aisle and not hit anybody." Michael Bennett, the chairman of Oasis, the women's wear retail group, said that he already wished that his three outlets at Bluewater were larger: "Trading there is excellent."

A spokesman for Lakeside, which is ten minutes drive from Bluewater, however, countered: "We have seen no discernible effect in footfall which can be attributable to Bluewater."

Mr Gee also said that Oxford Street rents had started to fall in response to the success of Bluewater. Chris Phillips of Healey & Baker, the property agents, agreed that rents had started to ease, but added: "It's probably too early to tell what effect Bluewater will have."



Lakeside: quiet by comparison

Investors support Olivetti

Olivetti's shareholders yesterday agreed to a 5 trillion lira (£1.7 billion) capital increase to help to finance its £41 billion takeover bid for Telecom Italia. Roberto Colaninno, Olivetti chief executive, warned shareholders in Telecom Italia not to approve its defence strategy, which includes a proposal to convert non-voting savings shares into ordinary shares, threatening a competition war if the takeover defences are approved.

Olivetti has indicated that it will scrap its bid if Telecom Italia investors back the defence strategy of Franco Bernabe, chief executive of the former state telephone monopoly. Mr Colaninno said that Olivetti would accept a smaller stake in Telecom Italia than its maximum 67 per cent bid if it could secure control. The smallest stake it will accept is 35 per cent.

Nomura in talks over 274 pubs

Nomura International is in talks to sell 274 pubs from its Inntrepreneur estate. A price is not being disclosed, but industry sources suggest a sum of less than £50 million. It is understood that the buyer is the property investment group that acquired 120 pubs from Nomura's Phoenix Inns arm in November. The group's identity is not known, but its pubs are managed by Pennant Inns, based in London. Frazer Shee, a Pennant director, declined to comment on terms of the latest deal, but admitted: "It's certainly one we're interested in."

Russian paper

The *Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and the Dutch publisher Independent Media are to start a Russian-language business daily newspaper in August. The alliance is the first venture between the *Financial Times*, owned by Pearson, and Dow Jones's *Wall Street Journal*, strong rivals in the US and Western Europe. The new paper, to circulate initially in Moscow and St Petersburg, will be owned equally by Pearson, Dow Jones and Independent Media.

BEN GURR



Rowland Gee, left, chief executive at Moss Bros, and Terry Donovan, finance director, recorded a decline in profits

Spring's mixed bag for clothes retailers

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

CLOTHING retailers, emerging from an uncomfortable winter of trading, reported yesterday that the spring had brought mixed fortunes.

Oasis, the women's wear retailer, said that underlying sales in the first eight weeks of the current year were up 6 per cent. This follows a jump in pre-tax profit to £13 million from £10.4 million in the year to January 30.

By contrast, Moss Bros, the menswear group behind Savoy Taylors Guild, Blazer, Cecil Gee and The Suit Company as well as the Moss Bros suit hire business, has seen its like-for-like sales dip 2 per cent in the first nine weeks of the current financial year.

Oasis has increased its total number of outlets by ten to 137 last year and has added a further three so far this year. Five new stores and four relocations are planned. The first Japanese branch is due to open in Tokyo this year. Michael Bennett, chairman, said that he is hoping to find a local partner to open stores in Australia. Two more branches of Coast, Oasis's new brand aimed at a slightly older and more affluent customer, are due to open this year.

On earnings per share of 17.7p (13.1p) Oasis is paying a final dividend of 5.6p (5.1p), giving a total for the year to 8.25p (7.5p). The shares closed last night up 1½p at 186½p.

Pre-tax profits at Moss Bros in the year to Janauary 30 fell from £19.6 million to £16.1 million as, despite turnover increasing from £147.7 million to £153.7 million, the company was forced to cut its prices. Earnings per share fell from 14.9p to 12.2p but Moss Bros is paying a final dividend of 4.2p (4p), giving a full-year total of 6.3p (6p). Moss Bros shares rose 3p yesterday to 186½p.

☐ James Beattie, the department stores group, is to create 600 jobs over the next two years, investing £12 million to increase retail space by 30 per cent.

Extensions are planned for four of its stores in the Midlands. The company's tenth store, at the Huddersfield Kingsgate Centre, is due to open in spring 2001. The company is also investigating opportunities to acquire existing department stores.

Yesterday it reported pre-tax profits up 9 per cent at £10.1 million for the year ended January 31, despite what the company called a challenging year. Turnover was little changed at £104.6 million, from £103.6 million. Earnings per share were up 10 per cent at 16.8p and the final dividend of 7.75p (7.25p) brings the total dividend for the year to 10.75p (9.75p).

Tempus, page 30

Versand buys Freemans

FREEMANS, one of the largest mail order businesses in Britain, has been sold by the new owners of Sears to Germany's Otto Versand (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Hamburg-based Versand is believed to have paid about £150 million to Philip Green and the Barclay brothers, who bought Sears at the beginning of this year. Versand already owns another big British mail order operator, Grattan. After its acquisition of Freemans, Versand will control a total of 15 per cent of the UK market, behind Littlewoods (16 per cent) and Great Universal Stores (24 per cent).

The attempts by the former management of Sears to sell Freemans, which had turnover of £562 million last year, turned into one of the longest-running sagas in British retailing.

Littlewoods twice tried to buy Freemans. The transaction was eventually blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. N Brown, which is believed to have tried to buy the business from its new owners, also made a bid, but failed to agree a price.

Hit squad to tackle Siemens computer chaos

By Jason Nissé

PROBLEMS caused by the introduction by Siemens of a new £100 million computer system at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) have become so severe that senior executives have been given "carte blanche" to do whatever is needed to sort out the mess.

The roll out of the German electronic giant's system is running 18 months behind schedule and latest figures show that, at the end of February, a record 71,295 asylum applications were waiting to be processed. This compares with 50,950 a year ago, before the Siemens system started being introduced.

The backlog of records mounting up could be exacerbated by reports that rats have gnawed away at the stores of asylum applications at the IND's offices in Croydon, Surrey.

The IND was able to process only 1,275 applications in February. Although this was up from just 995 in January it is below the target of 2,375 a month. At current rates it would take more than four-and-a-half years to clear the backlog. It is expected that the IND will be swamped with further asylum applications in the next few weeks when the airlift of Kosovo refugees starts.

Last month Stephen Boys Smith, director-general of the IND, launched a progress chasing group to try to sort out the problem. In a memo to that group - leaked to the trade magazine, *Computer Weekly* — Boys Smith says that executives from Siemens and the IND "will be empowered by both me and the managing director of Siemens Business Systems to take any action that is required as soon as they can."

The memo adds: "They will not be constrained by commercial and contractual issues."

The Home Office said that this is to ensure that any solution is not held up by talks about who would pay for changes.

The problems at the IND have been criticised by both the National Audit Offices and MPs.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Electra scheme hits Revenue snag

ELECTRA INVESTMENT TRUST'S £544 million offer for 40 per cent of its own equity — to rebuff a £1.25 billion hostile takeover offer from 3i, the venture capitalist — has hit problems with the Inland Revenue, Electra has admitted. Investors earning more than £28,000 and trustees claiming schedule F relief will be subject to tax as if they had received income rather than capital on the sale shares. Electra's legal team has previously argued that this would not be so. People who fall into these two categories are being allowed to revoke offers to sell stock.

Electra will appeal against the Revenue ruling and is confident of success. Its tender offer is part of a plan to realise greater value from the fund, which has been trading at a large discount to its net asset value. Electra reiterated yesterday that its plans equate to 786p a share, compared with 3i's 725p offer in cash and shares.

Cornwell Parker boost

SHARES in Cornwell Parker, the Parker Knoll furniture company, rose nearly 14 per cent after the company admitted that it has received further bid approaches which may lead to a takeover offer for the company. The shares lifted 12p to 98½p despite the company reporting a fall in profits in the first half of its financial year and a warning that difficult market conditions will continue in 1999. Pre-tax profits came in at £2.1 million (£3.3 million). The interim dividend is rising 0.2p to 1.5p.

BNP keeps up bid

BNP, the French bank bidding for Société Générale and Paribas, said yesterday that it plans to continue with its offer, despite its renewed rejection by SocGen and Paribas. BNP said that the stance adopted by SocGen and Paribas was unreasonable, and not in the best interests of their shareholders. The two banks were not being transparent with their shareholders, it added. The rejection by SocGen and Paribas means that any merger may not be sorted out until June at the earliest.

Integrated phone plan

ATLANTIC TELECOM, the fledgeling Scottish telephone company that aims to expand into England, yesterday said it would become one of the first operators in Britain to launch an integrated fixed-line and mobile phone service. The service, using radio technology, is expected to allow the company's 21,700 customers to pay one rental fee and receive one bill for both their residential and mobile phone services.

Glaxo presses on

GLAXO WELLCOME still hopes to press ahead with the US launch of its new flu treatment by the end of the year, despite the recent opposition of advisers to the US Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has agreed to extend its consideration of Relenza for three months beyond the original April 27 deadline. An advisory committee voted 13-4 against approving Relenza because of unconvincing results in the US trial.

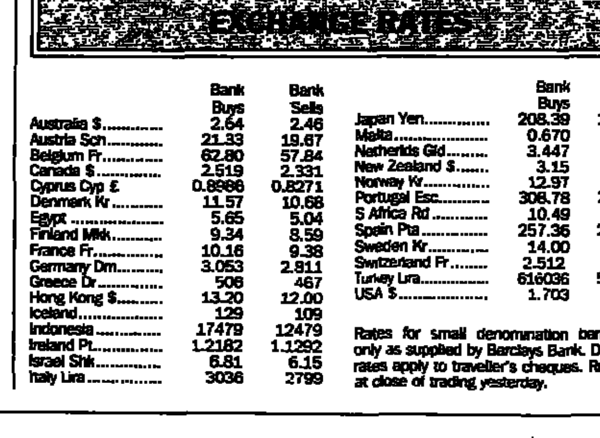
Clinton at the double

CLINTON CARDS, the greetings card retailer, more than doubled profits last year after its £28.7 million acquisition of The Greetings Store Group in October. Pre-tax profits were £15.8 million in the year to January 31. Clinton said its new year has started well. Turnover was £208.5 million last year, up from £152.8 million. Basic earnings per share were 17.54p (9.32p). A 3.6p final dividend makes 4.6p, up 53 per cent.

Fewer travel first class

By Paul Armstrong

BRITISH Airways has reported a rise in non-premium traffic of 11.35 per cent for March. Premium traffic fell by 0.2 per cent. It said that growth of 9.6 per cent was recorded in scheduled revenue passenger kilometres for the month. Intercontinental traffic was up 10.1 per cent, outstripping the 6.9 per cent growth in UK-Europe traffic. BA said overall premium performance was affected by the pre-Easter holiday week, which reduced traffic in that category in the last four days of the month. The load factor for mainline scheduled services fell by 2.7 percentage points to 68.4 per cent.



EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.64	2.46
Austria Sch	21.33	19.67
Belgium Fr	62.80	57.84
Canada $	2.519	2.331
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8986	0.8271
Denmark Kr	11.57	10.68
Egypt	5.65	5.04
Finland Mkk	9.34	8.59
France Fr	10.16	9.38
Germany Dm	3.053	2.811
Greece Dr	506	467
Hong Kong $	13.20	12.00
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17479	12479
Ireland Pt	1.2182	1.1292
Israel Shk	6.81	6.15
Italy Lira	3036	2799
Japan Yen	208.39	190.86
Malta	0.670	0.611
Netherlds Gld	3.447	3.152
New Zealand $	3.15	2.91
Norway Kr	12.97	12.03
Portugal Esc	308.78	286.75
S Africa Rd	10.49	9.53
Spain Pta	257.36	238.57
Sweden Kr	14.00	12.90
Switzerland Fr	2.512	2.294
Turkey Lira	616036	575089
USA $	1.703	1.560

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Put off by a bruised Reed



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

The long sought after new chief executive of Reed Elsevier was, apparently, on the brink of signing his contract when he changed his mind. And who can blame him? Any reasonable chap might have had second thoughts about entering a boardroom where the atmosphere had become quite so poisonous.

The tensions were not new but had been festering for years, and they were not of the creative kind. Since Pierre Vinken and Loek van Vollenhoven have now flounced out, they have conveniently cast themselves as the villains of the piece but boards that allowed such destructive nastiness to persist must assume some joint responsibility.

It seems that the two sides of this Anglo-Dutch venture never were as one. The complicated structure of the business undoubtedly made it harder for the obstacles to harmony and international understanding to be ejected but surely the non-executive directors must have reached the pitch when they felt some action had to be taken, even if it was only their own resignation? Shareholders do not expect people such as Sir Christopher Lewinton, the TI chairman, to sit passively by while a business is threatened by fighting factions.

Yet the directors of Reed seem to have been impotent in the face of an elderly, but very determined Dutchman. Pierre Vinken was in his late sixties when he plonked himself in the way of the plans of the then chief executive, Peter Davis.

To hear the sighs of relief emanating from Reed yesterday, one might have thought that the board had successfully fought off some young Turk instead of finally waving off a septuagenarian. That there is still the little matter of a vacant chief executive's role to be settled was almost brushed aside amidst the welcoming of a new era at the company.

Investors will want the job filled before they can contemplate joining in the celebrations. In any other company, they might now be raising their hopes to the possibility of an opportunistic bidder pouncing while the vacuum at the top remains. But the corporate structure that has dogged the business for so long also provides a degree of protection against a bidder.

Clever investment bankers ought to be able to find a way of surmounting such obstacles. For Reed Elsevier's dismal share price performance disguises a business which is full of potential for the new millennium.

The company is at the heart of the information age. It has been investing heavily in electronic publishing. If the new management structure which comes into play next week enables concentration on the business instead of international hostilities, there might even be an enticing job for a brave chief executive.

Bay watchers see an energy precedent set

Ever since announcing in the Energy White Paper that it would be taking a strict line on agreeing to new gas-fired power stations, the Government has been at pains to say that the curb does not amount to a moratorium.

Now we can see that it actually amounts to very little. The "stricter consents policy" is clearly being applied in such a loose fashion that a coach and horses could happily canter through it — especially if elections were following not far behind. Purely by coincidence, the decision yesterday not to block the 500-megawatt station at Baglan Bay comes just days before the Government has to go into purdah over anything that might influence the Welsh and Scottish assembly elections.

The power station is by far the largest that has skipped through a non-moratorium designed to create some sort of diversity, security and sustainability in the energy market. The station's environmentally friendly credentials — the main criterion by which the Department of Trade and Industry will entertain exceptions to the rule — are not clearly laid out. The promise that an energy park will grow up around the station and deliver up to 6,000 jobs is vague, but it should sound good to Welsh voters.

The gas station will reduce the need for about one million tonnes of coal out of an already sharply declining market. Yet the Energy White Paper's main purpose had been to level the energy market amid a dash for gas and potential crisis in the coal industry. Some said at its publication — only last October — that the paper delivered only weak proposals to balance the market. The apparent moratorium on gas-fired power stations was its most powerful tool while we await a hugely complex and lengthy reformation of the electricity trading market. But if the moratorium was a mirage, the whole thing seems a waste of time.

It may be claimed that the Baglan Bay proposal offers such economic benefits and promise of regeneration that it should be allowed to fly in the face of policy. But just wait for the queue of power companies outside Stephen Byers's door claiming the same attributes. This move has created a precedent.

When interest rates are immaterial

Dewhirst is what now passes for a British textile business: it makes men's shirts in Indonesia and children's clothes in Casablanca.

On the bright side, in Wales, it has what it claims is the most modern garment laundering plant in Europe, so while there is little hope for skilled machinists, there may still be hope for the washerwomen of Britain.

But Dewhirst closed six British factories last year as it took production off-shore and not even a half-point cut in interest rates today would stop this migration of manufacturing continuing. The company can only meet the demands of its major customer, Marks & Spencer, by heading to the lands of cheap labour. The introduction of the minimum wage may have exacerbated the gap between the costs of having a blouse run up in Morocco or Manchester but it was already so big as to make the decision to move a no brainer.

The same reasoning will see manufacturing jobs in other sectors continue to flee. Yesterday, the Engineering Employers Federation conjured up a figure of 170,000 jobs which might vanish from the UK over the next couple of years. But despite timing the prediction in the hope of influencing the MPC, the EEF must know that the problem is beyond the reach of interest rates.

Green fingers

Philip Green is wasting little time in parcelling out Sears. The former owners repeatedly failed to sell the Freemans mail order business, succeeding only in presiding over its deterioration and shrinking worth. Mr Green had no doubt of Otto's keenness to take over the company and the price the company would pay coloured his own thinking in valuing Sears. He did not achieve the £395 million that Sir Bob Reid dreamed of but he was a happy man yesterday.

BICC's cable disposal attracts Wassall back

By Paul Armstrong

BICC yesterday announced the sale of the last of its troublesome cable businesses, immediately triggering a new takeover offer from Wassall, the industrial conglomerate.

Wassall, which already has 9.3 per cent of BICC, said last night that it was prepared to raise its offer for the company by 22 per cent, to 110p a share, but said that it would not make an official bid without the support of the BICC board.

The proposed offer values BICC at £463 million. However, Alan Jones, BICC's chief executive, rejected the revised proposal, saying that it still failed to recognise the company's value and prospects.

The announcements combined to lift BICC shares 12p to 106p.

The sale of BICC's energy cables division for £275 million completes a restructuring programme that BICC hopes will restore some of its former glory. The deal takes the amount raised from the company's asset disposal programme to £386 million in the past six months and leaves Balfour Beatty, the engineering and construction group, as BICC's key profit-generator.

However, BICC gave warning that the latest sale would have a negative impact on earnings until administration costs were cut and the sale proceeds were reinvested.

Mr Jones said that, in the meantime, funds from the disposal would be used to eliminate BICC's remaining debt of almost £200 million.

The warning prompted analysts to downgrade their 1999 pre-tax profit forecasts by about 10 per cent, to between £70 million and £72 million.

However, the stock market showed its faith in the long-term benefits of the restructuring plan, marking up BICC shares by 5p several hours before the Wassall announcement.

The process has underpinned steady recovery in BICC shares from a 12-month low of 38p in October. However, this compares with 180p last May and 449p five years ago. Since then, profits from fibre and cables have been eroded by technological developments and oversupply, and the stock has lost its place in the FTSE 100 index.

Chris Miller, Wassall's chief executive, yesterday said: "We believe that without our interest, the BICC share price would fall substantially below its current level".

Michael Blogg, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities, said: "BICC's prospects are pretty good. There was no strategic reason to have cables and construction together, and this sale will make the group more coherent."

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Dewhirst downbeat on outlook

DEWHIRST, one of Marks & Spencer's largest suppliers of clothing and toiletries, saw its profits hit last year and was downbeat about prospects for the current half (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The dramatic drop in consumer demand in the second half of the year and a cut in the group's operating margin from 8.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent meant that although sales rose from £363.6 million to £380.2 million, pre-tax profit in the year to January 15 fell from £31.4 million to £23 million.

The company was also hit by £2.2 million costs after the closure of six factories. On earnings per share of 13.29p (16.72p) the company is paying a final dividend of 4p, giving a total of 5.45p (5.4p).

Commentary, this page

Second bid for snooker group

By Dominic Walsh

CUES have been drawn in the murky world of snooker halls after Waterfall Holdings, the UK's second-biggest cue-sports group, launched a hostile £41 million bid for European Leisure, the market leader.

European, which is already the subject of an agreed takeover by Allied Leisure, the Burger King restaurants and ten-pin bowling operator, immediately rejected the all-paper offer and advised its shareholders to accept the Allied deal.

Waterfall, in which European has a 24 per cent stake, is offering 203.5 of its own shares for every 100 European shares.

At Waterfall's current price of 56½p, the offer values its target at 115p a share, compared with last night's 85p close. It is also at a premium to Allied's offer, which, at its launch a month ago, was worth 99p a share, or £35.4 million.

However, European called into question the value of Waterfall's paper, claiming that there is a bid premium from its own shareholding in the company.

It also cast doubts on Waterfall's accounts, claiming that its profits had been inflated by exceptional items.

Martin Callan, Waterfall's chief executive, said that the bid, launched after the market closed last night, offered European shareholders a bigger slice of the cake, as they would emerge with 70 per cent of the combined group compared with just 52 per cent in the Allied deal.

A combined European/Waterfall would have 135 snooker and pool clubs and 60 discos and bars.

ICG gives warning on junk bonds

INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the specialist finance house, gave warning yesterday that the use of junk bonds in unit trusts aimed at the retail market could short change consumers (Caroline Merrell writes).

ICG, a provider of mezzanine finance for small UK business, said it is raising the concern because the structure of bonds in the UK is different to the US where the market is much more advanced.

In the event of corporate collapse in the US, holders of junk bonds had some rights to assets that could be recovered. In the UK the same rules do not apply. ICG said it has taken up the matter with the fund managers concerned.

Tempus, page 30

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Pearson stutters as City highlights discrepancies

THE recent high-flying performance of shares in **Pearson**, owner of the *Financial Times* and Penguin, appears to have stalled.

Marjorie Scardino, chief executive, no doubt looked on in horror as it featured as the worst performer among the top 100 companies with the price slumping 70p, or 5 per cent, to £12.95 on turnover of more than four million shares.

It seems that brokers have discovered some disturbing discrepancies. There is a $50 million shortfall in the contribution from newly acquired education publishing business Simon & Schuster in the US. Page 80 of the accounts reveals a trading profit of £54 million, significantly below what Pearson had expected. It also compares lamentably with the £157 million the business earned in the previous year.

Mike Savage at Collins Stewart, the broker, says that demand for Pearson has been fuelled by the strong growth prospects for the education division. "The macro-drivers of the education business remain intact, but there is an element of doubt as to the core basis of profitability of this division."

Pearson remains comfortable with forecasts of £267 million profit from the combined education business of Adison Wesley and Simon Schuster. It is also confident of achieving $130 million of cost savings.

But Savage is taking a more cautious view of prospects. "Having been bulls of Pearson since February last year, we feel obliged to move to a situation where we feel more comfortable with a take some profits recommendation".

Other brokers have been mumbling that the break-up value of Pearson is now probably worth only £11 a share.

Share prices generally were kept on the boil by mounting hopes that the Monetary Policy Committee would cut interest rates again later today. Best gains were not held despite an opening rise for the Dow Jones industrial average in New York. But the FTSE 100 index closed 57.9 up at a new closing high of 6,473.2. Total turnover topped the billion share mark, although some screens showed more than three billion shares changing hands after an erroneous turnover level in **Lloyds TSB**, up 22p at 999p, of 2 billion shares.

Brokers reported demand for equities from European investors with domestic sellers holding off in order to create shortages and drive prices steadily higher.

Marks & Spencer, ¼p firmer at 436¼p, was the heaviest traded blue chip with 26.3 million shares changing hands. **WH Smith** rose 7½p to 707½p, the second day of progress for the shares, encouraged by a "buy" note from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which has set a fair value of £10.37. Hoare is encouraged by the potential revenue streams from Smith's ambitions on the Internet.

News of the suspension in trading of shares of Dickson Concepts in Hong Kong pending details of a restructuring excited speculators. They say it could be the prelude to a full bid for **Harvey Nichols** by its main shareholder. Claims that Dickson Concepts planned to dispose of its 50.1 per cent stake were thought to be unfounded. Harvey Nichs responded with a rise of 11p to 188½p.

Oasis Stores touched 194p on the back of a strong set of final results before seeing its lead reduced to 1½p at 186½p. Profits were up from £10.4 million to £13 million. Michael Bennett, chairman, said the women's fashion group was expanding its customer base and had made a good start to the year.

There was also heavy turnover in **Stanley Leisure**, down 9¾p at 263½p, as more than 12 million shares were traded.

A "strong buy" recommendation from Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the US securities house, saw **COLT Telecom** add 60p at £12.55. It has set a target price of £16.40.

BPB stood out with a rise of 12¼p to 278½p as the group bought back 650,000 of its own shares at 266½p.

Shareholders in **Kunick**, the troubled amusement machines group, unchanged at 14¾p, could be in line for a change of fortune. Leisure Link Group, fresh from its £28.5 million acquisition of Stretton Leisure from Greenalls, is reported to be considering a move on Kunick, or possibly Crown Leisure. Leisure Link, a £70 million management buyout from Bass last year, is backed by Duke Street Capital and is not short of funds.

Sports Internet Group retreated 8½p to 141½p on learning that Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, had reduced its stake in the company by 100,000 shares to 500,000 shares, or 5.68 per cent. Sports Internet was floated at 25p a share last month.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A last-minute bout of nerves ahead of today's decision by the MPC on interest rates took its toll on shorter-dated issues.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 4p to £117.99 as 23,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 55p to £148.17, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 10p off at £106.74.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Earnings jitters saw Wall Street lose most of its early gains. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 12.21 to 9,975.70.

GILL ALLEN



Michael Bennett, chairman, saw shares of Oasis climb 1½p to 186½p on the back of a strong set of final results

FURNITURE AND FITTINGS

FTSE All-share index (rebased) · General retail index · Source: Datastream · 2,700 2,600 2,500 2,400 2,300 2,200 2,100 2,000 1,900 1,800 · Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

THERE was little Christmas cheer for Britain's furniture retailers, but hopes are high that the summer may bring some warmth to hard-pressed shareholders.

Living in hope, there were gains for Courts (Furnishers), up 5p at 317½p, and DFS Furniture, 16p better at 282½p, while MFI Furniture held steady at 34½p. But the best gain was reserved for UNO, up 12½p, or 35 per cent, at 48½p.

So are there better times on the way, or is this just another false dawn?

Gabriela Vinader, a retail analyst at Merrill Lynch, the broker, is confident about prospects for the sector, which has been the worst hit of the retailers.

"Furniture shares have the potential to recover more strongly than other retail sales, which have not gone down as much," she says.

Because of the sharp falls that have been witnessed after a spate of profit warnings last year, the scope for recovery is now much greater.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 9975.70 (+12.21)
S&P Composite .... 1316.89 (-1.00)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 16554.50 (+74.79)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 11614.87 (+541.89)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 542.55 (+6.21)

Sydney:
AO .... 3029.6 (-3.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 5052.27 (+86.98)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1622.32 (+16.17)

Brussels:
BEL20 .... 3333.94 (+34.88)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 4318.04 (+13.56)

Zurich:
SMI Index .... 7216.8 (+46.8)

London:

FT 30	3905.5 (+32.2)
FTSE 100	6473.2 (+57.9)
FTSE 250	5498.5 (+41.8)
FTSE 350	3054.7 (+26.8)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2986.19 (+18.95)
FTSE All-Share	n/a
FTSE Non Financials	n/a
FTSE Fixed Interest	154.60 (+0.09)
FTSE Govt Secs	n/a
Bargains	99243
SEAQ Volume	1011.0m
US$	1.5956 (+0.0058)
Euro	0.6766 (-0.0003)
£:SDR	1.1745
Exchange Index	101.9 (+0.2)
Bank on England official close (4pm)	
RPI	163.7 Feb (2.1%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	162.3 Feb (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

Axon Group	268½	−	2½
BGI Endowment Wt	100½	+	½
Cairngorm Euro Restruct	114½		
Cairngorm Restruct Wrts	23	+	3
Canary Wharf	333½		...
Enhanced Zero Trust	100	−	¼
Gander Properties	7½		.
Gartmore High Income	108		...
Gartmore Zero Div Pf	106¾		...
Govett Enhanced Dv Pf	102¾		...
Govett Enhanced Inc	94½	+	½
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108¼		...
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	105½	+	1
Luminar Warrants	255		..
M Currie Cap Return	75½		..
M Currie Portfolio	79½	+	¼
Mercury Asset Allocator	105½		..
Morsa Holdings	233½	−	9
Murray Global Return B Uts	185		...
Murray Global Return Pfl	102¾		..
Murray Global Return Units	184½		...
NBA Quantum	110		...
Sports Internet	141½	−	8½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Holmes Place n/p (275)	17½	−	½
Mice Group n/p (80)	20½		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Tadpole Tech	15¼	+ 2	+ 15.0
Coutts Cnslg	46	+ 6	+ 15.0
Cornwell Prk	98½	+ 12	+ 13.8
Acorn	251½	+ 29	+ 13.0
BICC	106	+ 12	+ 12.7
Servomex	117½	+ 13	+ 12.4
James R Knowles	27½	+ 3	+ 12.2
Friendly Hotels	138½	+ 15	+ 12.1
Clarkson (H)	72½	+ 7½	+ 11.5
Goodhead	30½	+ 3	+ 10.9
ARM Holdings	3185	+ 302½	+ 10.4
Intereurope	92½	+ 8½	+ 10.1
Leeds Group	50	+ 4½	+ 9.8
Oxford Molecular	56½	+ 4½	+ 8.6
Courtaulds Text	166½	+ 13	+ 8.4
AAF Inds	79½	+ 6	+ 8.1
Lambert Fen	76	+ 5½	+ 7.8
TeleWest	319¼	+ 23	+ 7.7

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
United Oseas Gp	18	− 1½	− 7.6
WML	25½	− 2	− 7.2
Stirling Group	20	− 1½	− 6.9
El Data Prc	60½	− 4½	− 6.9

TEMPUS

BT's eastern connection

THE BT decision to buy 20 per cent of SmarTone, the Hong Kong mobile telephone operator, is obviously sensible and the £240 million purchase price counts as little more than small change in the multibillion-pound world of international telecoms players.

It brings the money invested by BT in the all-important Asia-Pacific region to about £1 billion. There were even hints yesterday that, all things being equal, BT would like to have a similar amount invested in the region to the £3.5 billion that has gone into stakes and partnerships in continental Europe.

To make its Asia-Pacific policy credible, BT will have to find a way of increasing its presence in Japan, the world's second-largest telecoms market after the US.

On the face of it it is difficult to fault BT's policy of creeping up in an unthreatening way to markets that have only recently, or are only just now, deregulating their telecoms markets. Interesting international partnerships and networks are being created while at the same time avoiding frightening the sheep.

BT's steady-as-she-goes policy in the region is also justifiable in light of the economic risks in which many countries in the area are still submerged. Asia-Pacific offers the communications industry one of its greatest long-term growth prospects. However, there is no need for BT to overexpose itself in the rush for a slice of the action.

BT's prospects are bright because of the rapid growth of its industry, if nothing else. The risk for investors is that they could overpay while the sector is still flavour of the month. But this does not stop the stock rating as a long-term buy.

BICC

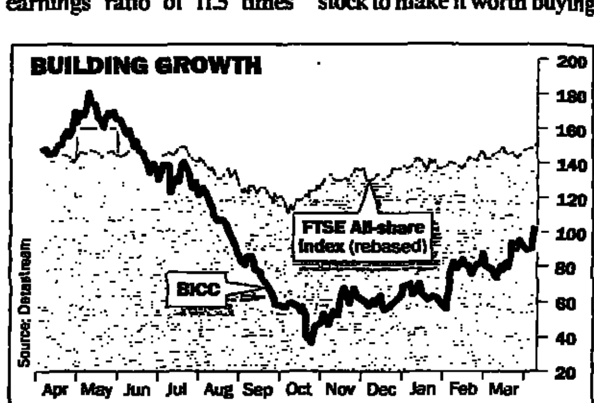
ALAN JONES, the chief executive of BICC, likes to promote his company's asset sales programme as evidence that he is prepared to take radical action when it is needed. Just how radical it is to break up a cables and construction group is questionable. But there can be no doubt about the necessity of the move.

The crash in BICC shares from 449p five years ago to a low of 38p in October shows that Mr Jones and his team had little choice. The various cables businesses were being overrun by technology and heavy oversupply.

The asset sales have raised £386 million and breathed life into the share price, which closed 12p higher yesterday at 106p. However, continued recovery depends on more cost cuts, further growth in Balfour Beatty's order book and finding the right homes for its £100 million warchest.

Most of BICC's organic growth prospects rest with Balfour Beatty. The construction group increased its order book by 25 per cent last year and analysts are confident that reasonable growth will be recorded this year.

BICC's prospective price/earnings ratio of 11.5 times leaves upside in the share price. The stock is also likely to be rerated when the company joins the construction sector. In the nearer term, a further increase in Wassall's proposed takeover offer of 110p a share, or even a competing bid, could fuel further gains. Despite its recent run, there is still enough upside left in the stock to make it worth buying.



Moss Bros

MOSS BROS is without doubt a quality operation. It has a strong management team and, with Moss Bros itself, Blazer and Savoy Taylor's Guild, some great brands. Unfortunately, it also has some rather poor trading figures.

Despite the lower interest rates and some improvement in consumer sentiment, it still appears to be the case that men are reluctant spenders when it comes to clothes. Heavy cost-cutting by Marks & Spencer, which still controls 15 per cent of the UK's suit market, has also taken its toll on Moss Bros margins.

Promisingly though, it has not hit Moss Bros's market share, which has crept up to 13.5 per cent of men's suits. The millennium, too, should see an increase in suit hirings and purchases should jump.

But the next few months are going to be a struggle. Margins will remain under pressure, and Marks & Spencer's fightback is not to be underestimated.

When an upturn in the retail sector finally arrives, possibly in the second half, Moss Bros should benefit. But that is already fully taken into account in the share price, which is on a healthy rating of about 15.5 times forward earnings. Existing shareholders should hold, although they will need to be patient. Those interested in buying should wait for weakness in the share price.

ICG

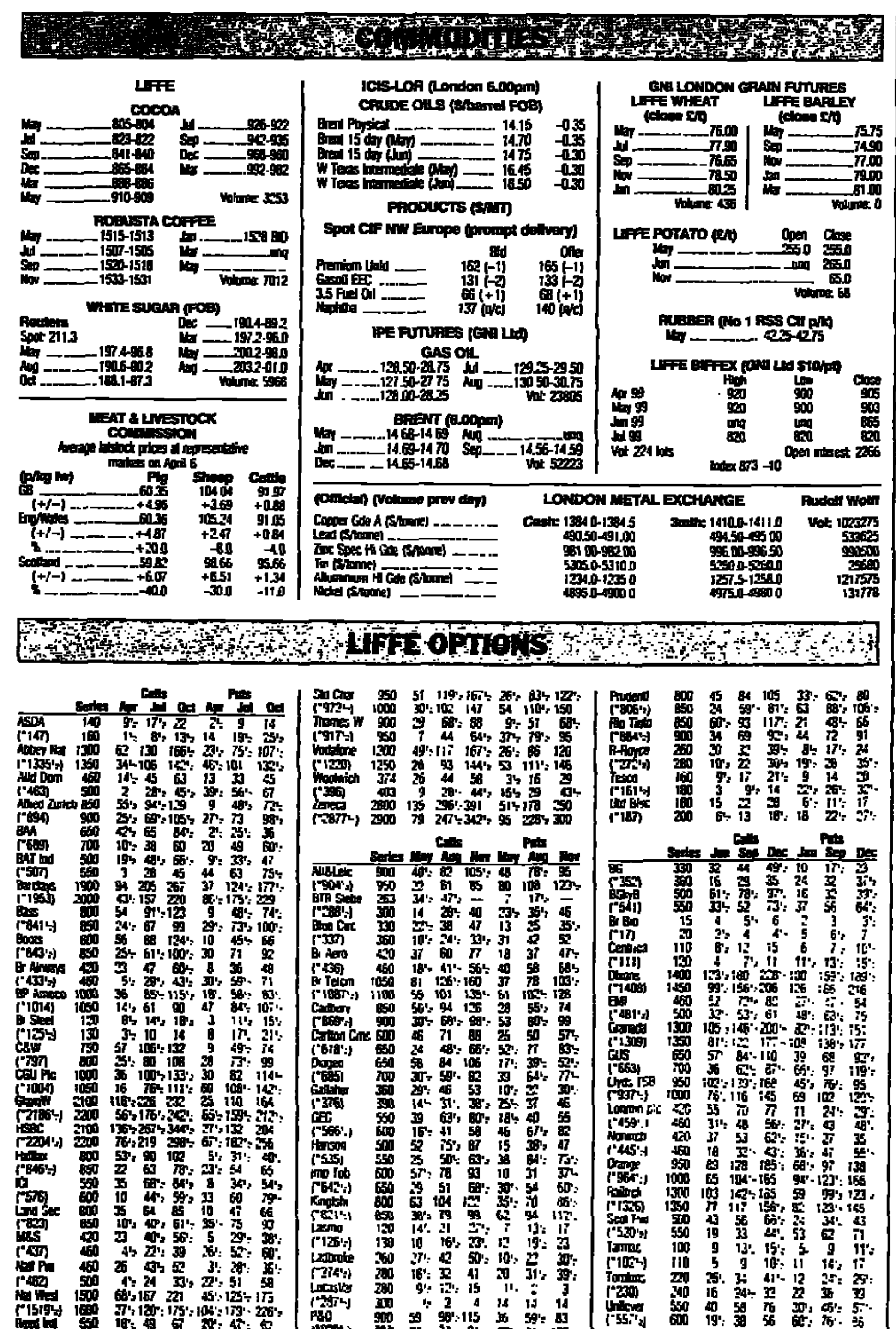
INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the specialist finance house, has had a decade of steady growth. Profits and its share price have risen slowly but steadily.

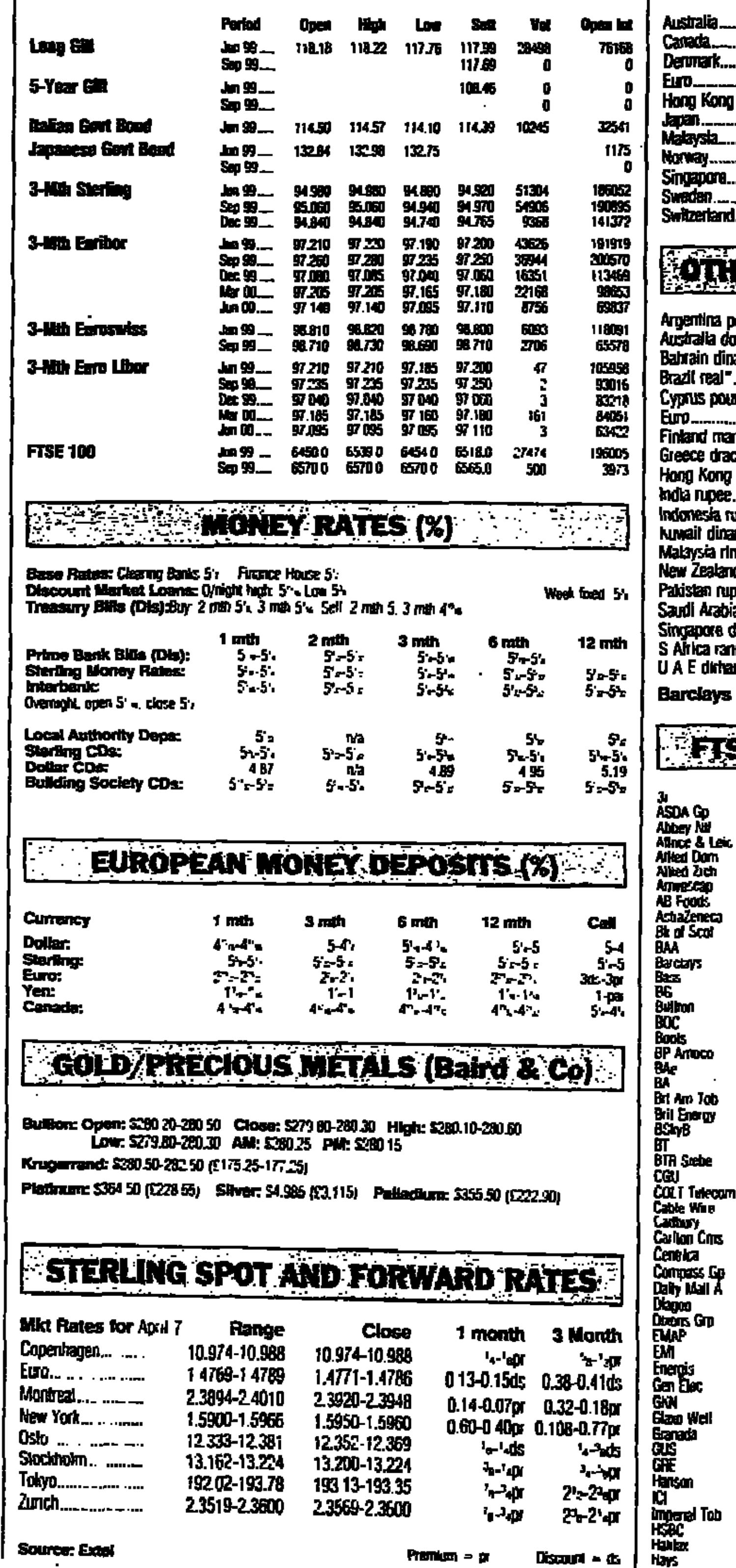
The company has found a niche — providing mezzanine finance to small companies performing management buyouts or those hoping to make acquisitions. Of the 120 deals done in its ten-year history, only four have failed to bear fruit. Last year's crop of ICG-backed MBOs makes interesting reading. Those behind the buyout of IPC, the magazine house, used £51 million of ICG's money.

ICG competes for business with the Scottish banks, which last week announced a new venture aimed at providing more finance for bigger deals. Many assume this will take some of their attention away from ICG's market.

The niche nature of ICG's business means that it must diversify away from the UK to continue its expansion. Last year, 40 per cent of its lending was in Europe. It hopes to build on this year in the coming months, as the continentals become more aware of what ICG has to offer.

But the stock's lack of liquidity and the financier's high exposure to global economic fortunes puts the shares in a high-risk category. For those prepared to accept this, they rate a hold.

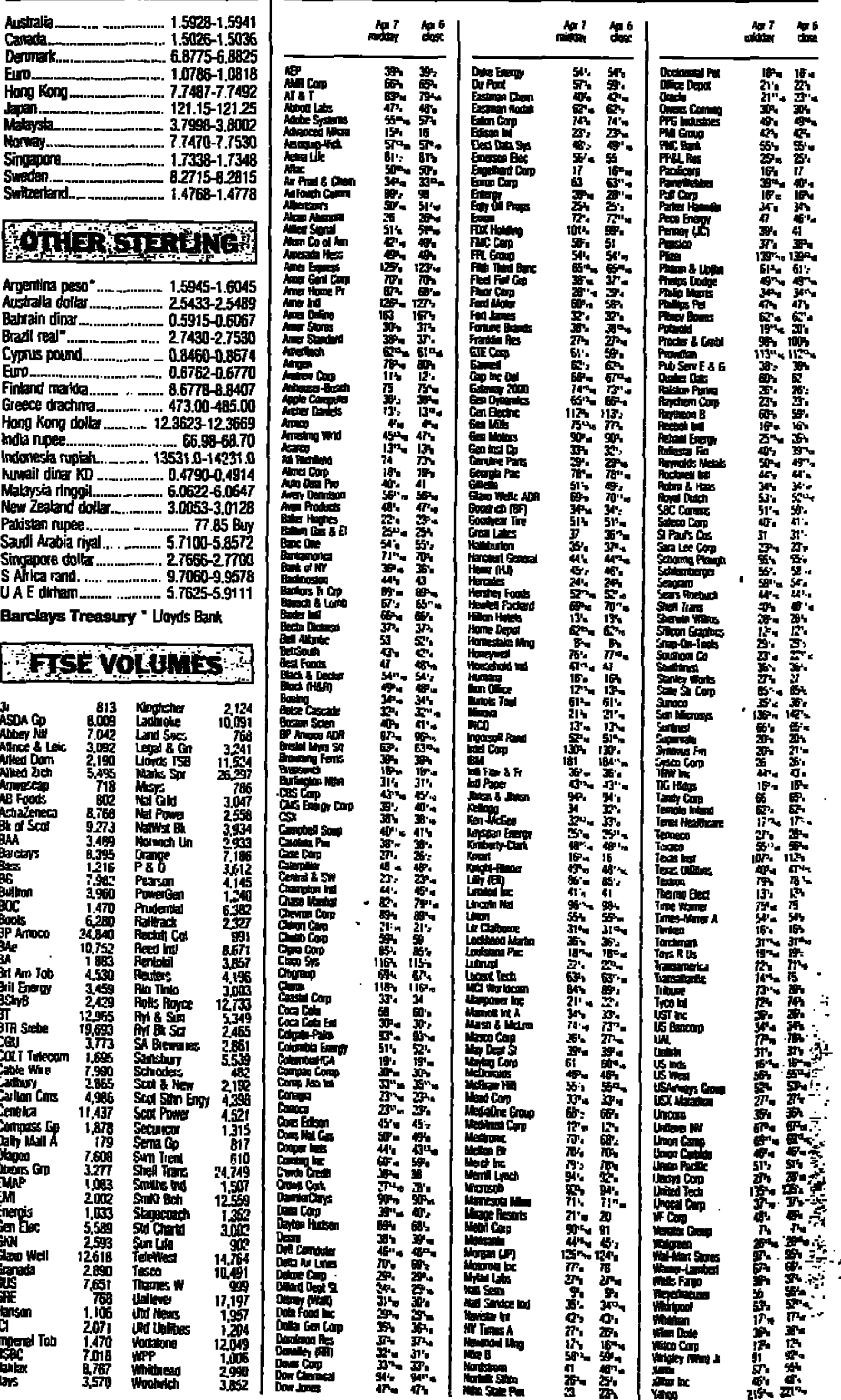




STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 7	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.974-10.988	10.974-10.988	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4769-1.4789	1.4771-1.4786	0.13-0.15ds	0.38-0.41ds
Montreal	2.3894-2.4010	2.3920-2.3948	0.14-0.07pr	0.32-0.18pr
New York	1.5900-1.5966	1.5950-1.5960	0.60-0.40pr	0.108-0.77pr
Oslo	12.333-12.381	12.352-12.369	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	13.162-13.224	13.200-13.224	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	192.02-193.78	193.13-193.35	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3519-2.3600	2.3569-2.3600	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel · Premium = pr · Discount = ds



DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5928-1.5941
Canada	1.5026-1.5036
Denmark	6.8775-6.8825
Euro	1.0786-1.0818
Hong Kong	7.7487-7.7492
Japan	121.15-121.25
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.7470-7.7530
Singapore	1.7338-1.7348
Sweden	8.2715-8.2815
Switzerland	1.4768-1.4778

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5945-1.6045
Australia dollar	2.5433-2.5489
Bahrain dinar	0.5915-0.6067
Brazil real*	2.7430-2.7530
Cyprus pound	0.8460-0.8674
Euro	0.6762-0.6770
Finland markka	8.6778-8.8407
Greece drachma	473.00-485.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.3623-12.3669
India rupee	66.98-68.70
Indonesia rupiah	13531.0-14231.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4790-0.4914
Malaysia ringgit	6.0622-6.0647
New Zealand dollar	3.0053-3.0128
Pakistan rupee	77.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7100-5.8572
Singapore dollar	2.7656-2.7700
S Africa rand	9.7060-9.9578
U A E dirham	5.7625-5.9111

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

Capitalism's two ambivalent faces

Barring the last-minute intervention of a good fairy, the Vaux brewery in the centre of Sunderland will close by July 2. A brewing tradition going back to 1837, maintained ever since by the Nicholson family heirs to Cuthbert Vaux, will end in chaos and the loss of 520 jobs.

Derek Foster, a prominent Sunderland-born Labour MP and Chris Mullin, one of the town's present Labour MPs, have both damned the closure as "the unacceptable face of capitalism". Understandably so. The axe will fall, in the end, because management buy-out proposals aimed at saving the brewery fell somewhere between £5 million and £20 million short of the benefits that the renamed Swallow Group reckons it can gain by selling its pubs, closing breweries and buying beer for its hotels and bars from the cheapest supplier.

The unacceptable face, though an overused phrase, still carries a wealth of meaning. It was first coined a generation ago by Sir Edward Heath, when as Prime Minister he was asked in Parliament about the affairs of Lonrho. The sin that inspired the Prime Minister's well-turned curse was an early airing of boardroom excess. Lonrho relied on the foreign responsibilities of key directors to pay them secretly in tax havens abroad and avoid punitive tax rates then levied in the UK.

The late Tiny Rowland, presiding genius of Lonrho, had several unacceptable faces. On this occasion, capitalism and the voters eventually backed the buccaneer. After a board battle that dragged memorably through the courts and exposed a lot worse than dodgy boardroom pay, massed shareholders backed Mr Rowland. And today, neither Sir Edward nor even Messrs Foster and Mullin would support a return to 1970s tax rates.

Selling such a big chunk of manufacturing jobs for "a few pence on the share price" as one critic put it, is still distasteful, even it seems to Swallow investors. The board under Sir Paul Nicholson, who had been managing director for 27 years and also chairman for 25, backed the buyout to save the brewery. But key institutional shareholders, such as Mercury and Hermes, put legitimate pressure on other directors to make sure that any deal produced the maximum value for shareholders.

The result is an ugly face of capitalism. But what is the unacceptable face? Is it the closure or the failures of judgment and corporate governance that led to so disorderly an end?

Two key factors underlay the Vaux drama. One is the gap that has developed on the stock market between international growth stocks and the smaller mature groups depending on the home market. Vaux shares have lagged the FTSE 100 index by a mile over the past five years, attracting less than half the rating, in terms of price to profit, of the top 100. That has made them a lousy choice for fund managers such as Mercury and Phillips & Drew, who have chased value among solid domestic companies rather than going for growth in multinationals. Such investors have inevitably become ever more demanding of changes to drum up "shareholder value".



The brewing industry has also been undergoing a painful revolution that few predicted correctly at the time of the brewing orders almost a decade ago. The pubs, once seen merely as the tied distribution monopoly of the brewery, became the focal point. Like hotels, they were properties that the City was happy to invest in. Deals proliferated. Nomura of Japan now owns a tenth of all UK pubs.

Breweries became unloved manufacturing plants. They now compete on price like any commodity supplier, unless they have managed to develop products that people want to buy for choice, rather than just finding them in the local tied outlet. Even beloved local brews can be produced by specialists. Vaux failed either to turn itself into a big growth stock or to adapt to the changing beer market. Sir Paul was not idle. He built a successful diversification into Swallow hotels, which now makes three quarters of group profit, but left the old-fashioned regional brewery with tied outlets as Vaux's cultural centre. It was also the symbol of the family tradition of public service and loyalty to all stakeholders.

Sadly, the family only owned 2 per cent, roughly one fifteenth of the minimum stake needed to qualify as a family business. And shareholders did nothing to blend the twin duties of the board properly.

In 1995, a management study concluded that the future lay in Swallow hotels and that the Vaux business should go. The board, whose independent directors included a brother-in-law and former senior employee, rejected it. This failure of corporate governance has served the people of Sunderland ill. Had the Nicholsons been obliged to see the writing on the wall, they could have split the business in two or driven the brewery in a different direction.

In the end, only the emergency of a takeover approach last summer forced Sir Paul to appoint an outside chief executive who demanded the obvious though perishing in the process. City fund managers, who hate privileged family dynasties with a passion that would have suited Robespierre, distrusted a last-minute buyout led by Sir Paul's brother Frank, who ran the brewery. Its fate was sealed.

Had modern capitalism worked as in the textbook, the transition at Vaux should at least have been more civilised. That does not mean it would be comfortable. The cuddly face is entrepreneurs having great ideas, expanding and creating jobs. The other, ugly but just as vital face of capitalism is market forces and efficient firms putting others out of business. It will always be so.

Reed Elsevier seeks to put its troubles firmly in the past

Latest board split highlights longrunning problems, says Raymond Snoddy





Publishing division: Reed Elsevier board members in 1994, from left, Nigel Stapleton, Ian Irvine, Loek van Vollenhoven and Pierre Vinken. Three have gone, along with Sir Peter Davis, *top right*. Morris Tabaksblat, *bottom right*, joins next week

Just when it seemed that things couldn't get any worse at Reed Elsevier, the international information and publishing group, they do. Two directors resign, the board is in turmoil and, most serious of all, the hunt for a new chief executive has stalled after a global search that has already lasted eight months. This comes on top of last year's scandal at Reed Travel Business, when the company had to make provisions of £200 million to compensate advertisers for inflated circulation claims for directories. The company has also been hit by the high cost of investing in the transition from paper to electronic publishing not to mention increasing competition in some of its key legal information markets in the US.

It was hardly surprising that the Reed International share price fell more than 4 per cent at one stage yesterday on news of the interrupted executive search. The surprise was that it did not fall even more sharply. Cynical analysts suggested yesterday that there was a floor for the share price based on the belief that if things got too bad the value could always be extracted by a takeover.

Some investors were even heard to mutter that if the unwieldly Anglo-Dutch management structure continued to destroy value then it might be better to admit to an honest mistake and, after six years of Reed Elsevier, reverse the process and go for a demerger.

Perversely a number of senior figures close to the company were suggesting that Tuesday's special board meeting produced some rather good news. This follows the immediate resignations of Pierre Vinken, the 71-year-old former co-chairman, and Loek van Vollenhoven, who is 68. Though the resignations were largely symbolic — the two were due to retire at next week's annual meeting — their departure is seen as not before time. Despite his undoubted brilliance, Mr Vinken, a brain surgeon turned publisher who more than anyone was responsible for creating the modern Elsevier, has been held responsible for much of the tension at the top levels of the united company in recent years.

It is believed that it was Mr Vinken, supported by his close associate Mr Van Vollenhoven, who in 1995 moved against Sir Peter Davis, now chief executive of Prudential Corporation, because he thought the British executive was getting "too big for his boots". Sir Peter resigned with a massive payoff.

Then came a falling out with Ian Irvine, the former Reed Elsevier co-chairman and nominated successor to Sir Peter.

From the outside these splits have been seen as a cultural clash between the British and Dutch ways of doing business. In truth, they are generational.

"Pierre and Loek were increasingly out of touch with modern publishing and modern corporate governance. Pierre thought you just put up the cover price and took in the money," one executive said yesterday.

The two resigning directors were not thought to be involved in the delays over the appointment of a new chief executive. In fact in their departing statements they cited "differences of opinion over the management of the recruitment process".

This obtuse statement has been interpreted to mean that, while they would have supported the appointement of the chosen candidate, believed to be Jonathan Newcomb, chairman and chief executive of Simon & Schuster, when Mr Newcomb decided not to accept the offer at the last minute this brought to the surface all the festering unhappiness that the two Dutch masters had about how the process had been handled.

Mr Newcomb would certainly have been well regarded by the City. He was seen as potentially available after losing half his empire with the sale of S&S business and educational publishing interests to Pearson.

The search is now likely to be wound backwards to the shortlist in the hope that an announcement can be made before the summer. The share price is unlikely to recover until the uncertainty has been resolved.

Nigel Stapleton, Reed Elsevier co-chairman, has agreed to stay on until a new chief executive is in place. He and fellow co-chairman Hermann Bruggink said they had asked not to be considered for the job — though they may not have been encouraged to apply either.

Apart from the inevitable delay in choosing a chief executive things actually are starting to look up for Reed Elsevier. "It's really about what is happening next week, not history," a director said yesterday.

What happens next week, after Thursday's AGM, is that one of the world's top businessmen, Morris Tabaksblat, the retiring chairman of Unilever, takes over as chairman. Mr Tabaksblat will also finally take over a unitary board structure — something that was originally planned in the initial merger documents and later overturned under pressure from Vinken. In future there will three boards — Reed, Elsevier and Reed Elsevier — but the six non-executives will be common to all and, as well as a single chairman and chief executive, there will be, in Mark Armour, a chief financial officer.

With the main businesses performing well despite all the disappointments, it may be seen in retrospect that the turnround at Reed Elsevier began on Thursday April 15, 1999.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Aviation agreement must be on basis of reciprocity

From members of the British Cargo Airline Alliance

Sir, The message to Rodney Slater, the US Secretary for Transportation, after his recent UK visit must be clear; any form of new US-UK aviation agreement must be on a basis of reciprocity. If the UK Government is to grant traffic rights to US carriers, the US Government must be prepared to grant access to the US market.

This has been the stance of the UK Government since initial negotiations began on means of liberalising international aviation regulations. We must not now back away from the challenge of creating a level playing field for all operators. The onus lies with the UK Government to maintain their stance, and with the US to seize the advantages offered by genuine competition.

Only through the resumption of negotiations can these issues progress and only through reciprocity can truly open skies be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FOYLE
(British Cargo Airline Alliance),
MIKE SPARHAM
(British Airline Pilots' Association),
RICHARD BRANSON
(Virgin Atlantic),
HOWARD DAVIES
(British Air Transport Association),
KEN SMITH (Air 2000),
DANNY BERNSTEIN
(Monarch),
British Cargo Airline Alliance,
100 Rochester Row,
London, SWIP UP.

Conflicting lines on tax change

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, You report ("IT experts fear Budget will spark brain drain", April 5) on the possible impact of the Budget changes to the use of so-called "personal service companies".

You explain that these changes will force highly paid freelancers (such as IT consultants) to become staff employees of the companies that they work for, instead of charging fees through tax-efficient personal service companies. You report that many IT consultants might emigrate rather than pay the extra tax. You further quote an Inland Revenue spokeswoman saying that the changes were intended to hit IT consultants, but to "stop companies taking away the rights of workers by paying them freelance fees when they were effectively full-time employees".

It is interesting to compare this spokeswoman's statement with page 13, line 28, of the 1999 Budget Red Book, which suggests that the changes will yield £850 million for the Treasury in their first two years of operation alone.

Taking the spokeswoman's statement at face value, this particular Red Book figure is presumably a misprint.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK
(Head of Economics,
Chantrey Vellacott DFK),
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square,
London, WC1B 5LF.

Letters to the Business section may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5112 or by e-mail to: businesss@the-times.co.uk
Letters should carry a daytime telephone number.

Bad blood that can flow across borders

A continental affection for consensus is giving way to the Anglo-American obsession with bottom-line responsibility. But, whereas Unilever's efforts to streamline the sprawling multinational have been largely successful, Shell has stumbled.

Anglo-Dutch tiffs have as long a history as successful business ventures between the two nations, the best examples of which are the Royal Dutch/Shell and Unilever groups. Both companies have dual parents, listed in Amsterdam and London with share prices that trade independently and both have an inner circle of executive managers that runs the group.

However, there is no love lost between the two sides; from its inception in 1907, Shell was a product of the profound respect that stems from bitter rivalry. Marcus Samuel, the East End Jewish trader who founded Shell Transport & Trading was outfoxed by Henri Detharding, the ruthless Dutch accountant who led Royal Dutch Petroleum. Thus, Royal Dutch secured a majority 60 per cent share of the oil group, a structure that remains to this day.

Since the passing of the tyrannical Detharding, Shell has been run by a committee of managing directors, a consensus management system that has come under enormous strain over the past five years as the company found its bureaucracy unwieldy and faction-ridden.

Curiously, both Shell and Unilever reformed their management structures three years ago, both seeking to focus on product lines, thus reducing the influence of regional structures.

Perhaps the key difference between the two is the reluctance of Shell to appoint a chief executive with ultimate responsibility. Mark Moody Stuart, head of Shell's committee of managing directors, is *primus inter pares* rather than boss. At Unilever, no one doubts the authority of Niall FitzGerald. Reed Elsevier should take note.

CARL MORTISHED

New play

YOU cannot keep a good man down. The entrepreneur behind Ionica, the mobile phone business that was one of the great corporate disasters of this decade, has quietly set up in business again.

Nigel Playford is operating out of a technology park next door to the old Ionica headquarters in Cambridge. He has set up Albera Networks, described on its nascent website as "a telecoms consulting group specialising in wireless local loops".

This was what Ionica specialised in, of course, until last year when the receivers went in just 15 months after its stock market float. Playford is reckoned to have lost almost everything in that crash.

There is not much left of his creation except for the odd rusting base station in fields here and there and some unhappy investors who wish they had never heard of Ionica. I ring to offer Playford my best wishes, but for some reason he is not returning calls.



Plans for Nigel: Playford has set up in business again



I AM approached by Peter Warner, who reckons to be the, well, the cat's whiskers at drawing logos featuring cats. He has read the story in yesterday's Times *about the group of banks and other financial services providers that want one such logo to show which of the new individual savings accounts, or Isas, meet the necessary Treasury criteria.*

Warner is keen to offer his services. He studied at the Royal Academy and then drifted into depictions of things feline after a career drawing children's books — he produced about 50, "and my overdraft went up with every one".

He is already responsible for the Whiskas cat and the one on boxes of Go-Cat, this having been based on his surviving moggie Django. I wish him luck and point him in the right direction.

Handy hints

CHARLES HANDY, the management guru, will address the annual Booksellers Association conference on Monday. This shows an uncommon degree of forgiveness, because last time Handy was invited to give his views, at the 1995 meeting, he was booed.

Handy is not a great fan of the business, thinking it aloof and slow to cope with change. Last time he upset delegates by telling them the end of the Net Book Agreement would be a good thing.

This time, according to an interview with *The Bookseller*, he will be singing the praises of on-line retailers such as Amazon.com, which should go down equally well. Publishers, he says, are "even worse" than booksellers. "They haven't a clue how to sell books other than through bookshops."

A RETIRED corporate solicitor has just completed a bust of Marie Curie to be installed at the Marie Curie Cancer Care head office in Belgrave Square at the end of this month.

Frederick Parkhouse was senior counsel for Shell for 24 years, a job whose long hours required him to abandon an earlier hobby as a sculptor. He took it up again on his retirement five years ago.

The Marie Curie request came through the encouragement of his wife, Josephine, who does work for the charity, and took three or four months to complete. I ring to congratulate Parkhouse, who turns out to be celebrating his 70th birthday yesterday.

Bank on it

GOOD news for Barclays staff, some of whom, I hear, are beginning to wonder just what has happened to Michael O'Neill, the bank's new chief executive. He will definitely, no question of it, without fail, start on Monday — two weeks late.

"The reason for his delay was that he had to tie some things up in the States — he hadn't finished his job there," says a Barclays source. But hang on, I thought he had flu? "Er, it's a mix of lots of different things really," Barclays backtracks.

So as the saying goes, women have colds and men have flu. And high-powered American bankers have things to tie up.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



"Bet she couldn't find a chief executive for Reed Elsevier"

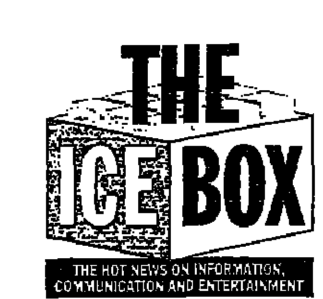
Internet offers fast route to car sales

Most people find buying a car or searching for a new house a time-consuming and frustrating experience. The two activities also generally involve dealing with people — ie, car salesmen and estate agents — who do not seem to know or care about how technology can speed up their businesses and make life easier for everyone involved.

Yet both car dealers and estate agents face a significant threat from the Internet, which is allowing a new breed of technology-savvy entrepreneurs to flourish. In the case of buying a car, the Internet is having the most profound effect where you would expect it least — in the second-hand and classic car markets. Using a service such as autotrader.co.uk, an offshoot of *Autotrader* magazine, consumers can gather almost perfect information about the market for the kind of car they are searching for. Autotrader.co.uk will also soon face competition in the form of Autobytel.com, a US company that is launching a UK service at the end of this month.

Sites of this kind allow potential buyers simply to enter the make and model of car they want (say, a BMW 5 series), how much they are willing to pay, and whether they would like to buy from a dealer or a private seller. They then enter their postcode, and tell the site how far from home they are willing to travel to buy the car.

Within seconds, the potential buyer can view an exhaustive list (including photographs) of all the BMW 5 series cars for sale within a given distance



from home, including prices and detailed descriptions of each vehicle. This kind of information gives a car buyer an enormous advantage, and is, at the moment at least, completely free. If a buyer is aware of all the cars for sale in a local area, he or she is in a very strong bargaining position. By going back to a site such as autotrader.co.uk every day, they can also see how long a car has been on the market. A few dealers are tackling this threat by putting up their own sites showing pictures of their cars and giving detailed descriptions of them. This will inevitably reassure buyers (after all, a garage can give details of other offers, such as warranties, etc), and is far more likely to entice someone into a showroom than a small advert on *Autotrader*'s Internet site.

The Internet is also changing the way properties for sale and rent are being offered, via sites such as loot.com — an offshoot of *Loot* magazine — which allow potential buyers to browse in the same way that car buyers can in autotrader.co.uk. Although Loot's online layout is a bit confusing, it is relatively easy to browse through a sub-section (for example, houses for sale in northwest England), and then refine the search even further, for example, to look for three-bedroom houses for sale in the North West.

Loot also allows users to save a specific search and every time a new advert is placed with Loot that fits those search criteria it sends out an e-mail alerting the potential buyer.

☐ Dell, the US computer manufacturer, has parted company with its advertising agency of 11 years, Moser O'Neill. The $70 million (£43 million) contract will now be put "in review".

CHRIS AYRES

RAC's shortlist suggests sale of rescue service

By Robert Lea

DRESDNER Kleinwort Benson has whittled down potential buyers of the RAC to a shortlist of six as insiders indicate that a sale of the motoring organisation is more likely than a flotation.

The RAC, led by Sir Michael Angus, the new chairman, is officially sticking to its "twin-track strategy" of having its adviser, DKB, and its broker, Cazenove, continuing to look at the options of whether to float or sell to a single buyer in order to get the best return for its 12,000 shareholders.

Insiders, however, are admitting that the recent sharp decline in the number of stock market flotations and the high-profile problems that surrounded the offer of William Hill, the bookmaker, indicate that a sale would not only be quicker but that it could also raise more cash.

The RAC's shareholders — the 12,000 members of the RAC gentlemen's club in London's Pall Mall from which the motoring organisation has now been split — are hoping for windfalls of about £35,000 apiece when the business eventually changes hands.

Cendant, the US group that owns Green Flag, had bid £450 million for the RAC, but the takeover was blocked by the Department of Trade and Industry on competition grounds.

According to John Williams, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank adviser is drawing up a shortlist that will evenly balance potential trade buyers and financial buyers.

The would-be buyers include Ford, the US motor company, and Cinven, the City venture capitalist.

RAC yesterday revealed that the costs of its reorganisation


The RAC's Pall Mall base

sent the business into the red in 1998.

Pre-tax profits on normal activities rose by 45 per cent to £24.7 million on turnover — mostly subscriptions from members — which increased by 15 per cent to £310 million.

But the business was hit by a raft of exceptional items amounting to £35.2 million, leaving the RAC with a pre-tax loss of £10.5 million for the year.

More than half the costs — £18.5 million — relate to a one-off endowment to the Pall Mall club so that it can continue to act as a lobby organisation on motoring issues. However, about a further £9 million has to be spent on advisers dealing with the reorganisation.

The RAC said that it had also made a £2.1 million provision against former members of the Pall Mall club taking legal action to get a share of the members' windfall.

The organisation said that there had been a further £3.8 million of continuing integration and start-up costs respectively from its takeover of BSM and its joint venture with Trafficmaster. There were also £1.5 million of year 2000 computer costs.


Frank Walker, Guiton chairman, issued a costs warning

Guiton profits ahead

GUITON GROUP, the Channel Islands newspaper publisher that bought the *Guernsey Evening Press* at the end of last year to go alongside its *Jersey Evening Post*, said profits were up by 10 per cent last year. It gave warning, however, that the costs of integrating the businesses would hit this year's profits. Pre-tax profits for 1998 came in at £4.3 million, and the company is raising the final dividend to 3.44p (3.13p) for a 10 per cent uplift in the total dividend to 5.64p.

Friendly Hotels books 52% rise

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES in Friendly Hotels, the midmarket hotelier, continued their recent rise, gaining almost 10 per cent on the back of strong 1998 results and robust current trading.

A combination of acquisitions and organic growth pushed profits before tax and exceptionals up 52 per cent to £7.4 million from turnover 28 per cent higher at £77.8 million. Headline earnings per share reached 16.4p (11.9p) and the final dividend of 4p makes a total of 6.3p (5.9p).

Friendly's shares, which hit a low of 93p in February, gained 15p on the day to 138½p.

Like-for-like sales in the UK were up 16 per cent, with revenue per available room rising 11 per cent. In the first quarter of 1999 the trend continued, with room occupancy up two percentage points to just over 59 per cent and the average room rate rising 11 per cent.

At the start of the year Friendly acquired the European master franchise for Choice Hotels International, giving it rights to such brands as Clarion, Comfort and Quality. It also paid Choice £16.1 million for 13 owned, leased and managed hotels, taking its total to 71, of which 44 are in the UK. It also has almost 300 franchises.

Tony Potter, chief executive and acting chairman, said that, in contrast to the Gulf War, the Yugoslavian crisis was having little impact on business.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Scottish software centre for US bank

JP MORGAN, the US investment bank, is to create 300 IT jobs in Scotland with the setting-up of a software applications development centre to design and develop systems to support the bank's European financial services operations. Although a location has yet to be found the bank wants to set up the operation — in which it is to invest £7.3 million — in the centre of Glasgow. JP Morgan will be hiring highly skilled software engineers, the bank said.

A spokesman for JP Morgan Europe said: "We have chosen to establish a technology centre of excellence in Scotland because it has a mature IT infrastructure and a rich supply of high-quality technology professionals." He added that the new centre will "combine the best of both investment banking and software house cultures". Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said the decision to base the centre in Glasgow came after he met JP Morgan executives in New York. Another US investment bank, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, will today announce a new development at Cumbernauld, Strathclyde, creating 1,000 new jobs.

Midland's Malta deal

MIDLAND BANK, the HSBC Holdings subsidiary, plans to buy a 67 per cent stake in Mid-Med Bank, the biggest bank in Malta, from the Maltese Government. The bank had a net asset value of about $183 million (£114 million) on September 30, and 60 offices and branches and 1,800 staff. HSBC shares leapt 102p to £22.05 yesterday. The sale is part of a strategy by the Maltese Government gradually to sell its interests in various industries. A Midland spokesman said that the bank would announce further details of the acquisition in a few weeks. Midland was the only bank interested in buying the stake in Mid-Med.

Citadel back in black

CITADEL HOLDINGS, the investor in French property that is quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, said that it made profits of £3 million in 1998 against a loss of £100,000 the previous year. Sten Mortstedt, chairman, said that the company would continue its strategy of acquiring modern, well-located properties in Paris and Lyon. The improvement in the French property market helped to raise the company's net asset value by 33 per cent to 142.1p. The dividend for the year rises to 3p from 0.5p. Citadel shares were unchanged yesterday at 95½p.

MoD prefers Cobham

COBHAM, the defence aerospace group, said yesterday that it had been named as the preferred bidder for the Ministry of Defence's electronic warfare training services contract. Cobham's FR Aviation currently operates the contract, which is due for renewal in May 2000. The company said that, although negotiations were continuing, if FR got the renewal it would be worth more than £200 million over the ten-year life of the deal.

Blockleys slips into red

BLOCKLEYS, the brickmaker that recently saw off a hostile bid from Natural Building Materials, slipped into the red last year after a downturn in sales. A 10 per cent decline near the end of the year saw 1998 turnover fall to £9.4 million (£10.3 million). The group recorded a trading loss of £102,000, but after interest payments and the £450,000 cost of defending the bid the loss was £1 million, against a pre-tax profit of £230,000 in 1997. The final dividend is cut to 0.15p, giving a total of 0.3p (0.45p).

ACCOUNTANCY

Shearer gives lesson in strategy

When it comes to budgeting, copy England, says **Robert Bittlestone**

Three quarters of the way through the recent England v Poland football match viewers were surprised to see players huddled in conference while the game continued on the pitch beside them. Apparently they had stopped for a discussion about their objectives for the next game. "We always prepare a detailed plan," said Alan Shearer, "otherwise the players won't know what's expected of them when we play Bulgaria in June."

An unlikely scenario, but that is what happens in big corporations every year. Several months before year end, the ritual war dance called Annual Budgeting begins. Determining next year's objectives occupies about three months — time that is lost from the task of meeting this year's objectives.

In a December year end company the first activity is at the end of the summer when the budget briefing pack is issued. By September the first draft of the budget is required from subsidiaries, in October there is preliminary management comment and in November detailed submission and review, culminating in board approval. If the business has a matrix structure involving international product groups or customer segments as well as geographical subsidiaries, there are additional layers of complexity.

Most of this time is spent in accessing data, creating budget spreadsheets and revising them as required. Relatively little "quality" time is spent in thinking through the fundamental drivers of the business and debating ways in which new decisions could improve the bottom line. Little time is left also to incorporate new goals such as optimising shareholder value.

The process invites political manipulation for any executive whose bonus depends on meeting a negotiated target. It is so much less exhausting to reduce a target than to improve achievement: even Alan Shearer must dream of being able to shift the goalposts. Some of the hallowed techniques include: submitting a low forecast for the current year end and then beating it, while conveniently omitting to clarify that the budgeted 20 per cent growth for next year is now really only 12 per cent: creative accounting that releases profit from the balance sheet by manipulating provisions; and fatalistic masochism which yields under duress to a head office-imposed budget and then takes positive delight in saying "we told you so" when it is missed next year.

So how can we escape this corporate nightmare? Here are some practical alternatives being adopted by a growing number of large corporations:

The world does not stop at midnight on December 31. We should refuse to allow our common sense to be overruled by the proponents of financial eschatology. Instead, we should


Robert Bittlestone predicts a watershed in budgeting

establish a continuous forecast on a 12 or 24-month ahead rolling basis. The future cannot be predicted exactly, so we should explicitly incorporate a risk range of possible outcomes in forecasts, rather than a single set of goals.

Performance rewards should be based on beating historic performance and our competitors' achievement, not on budget negotiation skills. If we pay people based on growth against last year set against a benchmark of our competitors' results, then the political aspects of budget-setting become irrelevant.

Interactive graphic models should be used to make explicit the linkage between cause and effect. We should use modern technology to help us to visualise immediately the effect on shareholder value of, say, a reduction in customer payment period from 60 to 40 days. Automation of these aspects cuts out weeks of "back office" data churning and involves the executive team in visualising the financial dynamics of their business as a whole. This focus on graphic rather than purely numeric techniques is deliberate.

These days our children have lavish state-of-the art technology to simulate the exploits of a James Bond villain or a *Tomb Raider*. Imagine their reaction if they were invited to dispense with that visual imagery and peruse the outcome of their battle decisions as a series of numeric tables. Remarkably, when executives sit down to simulate battle for their companies, that is precisely what they are expected to do.

This is because the groundwork involved is organised by accountants, who no doubt have inherited genes that code for partiality to numeric presentation. However, behavioural studies make it clear that most line managers do not share the same genes and do not digest corporate information effectively via tabular presentations.

Senior managers have historically been uncomfortable with the personal use of technology, apart perhaps for e-mail. Even that still has its sceptics. But the approaching millennium is a cross-over year in this regard: newly appointed managers in their early thirties have been educated since the 1980s to use computers themselves. By 2005 this microprocessing meteorite will have eradicated the last of the dinosaurs and there will be no more excuses for dedicating a quarter of every year to the production of next year's budget. Evidently some companies don't intend to wait until then.

Robert Bittlestone is managing director of Metapraxis Ltd.

Chinese walls must be built to last

THE one clincher that clients put forward when arguing against the further consolidation of accountancy firms is that of conflict of interest. With only a Big Five group of firms, companies find it an immensely complicated task to select an adviser — in even the simplest of cases — who is not "conflicted out".

When it comes to court work, such as that of expert witnesses, this was not quite so much of a problem. The half a dozen or so firms in the mid-tier were perfectly capable of providing help without much likelihood of problems.

But even they are now starting to consolidate, and the latest efforts to merge, by Robson Rhodes and Pannell Kerr Forster, have provoked a court action that is likely to provide the best guidance that professional firms throughout the City need on Chinese walls.

Whereas the case of KPMG and Prince Jefri Bolkiah, the brother of the Sultan of Brunei, last December dealt with the problems of an overlap of clients, the new case deals with the much more likely problem of professional firms falling over each other.

The Prince Jefri case provides a warning to firms. But it is one of greed. KPMG fell into the trap by behaving like characters from an old *Tom and Jerry* cartoon. As soon as the words Sultan of Brunei came up, their eyes started revolving like cash registers. They knew that there was bound to be a conflict. But all those fees... there had to be a way to get around the conflict.

ROBERT BRUCE

But as the House of Lords finally ruled last December, there was not. Partly this was because of the sheer number of people within KPMG who had worked on the original Prince Jefri project. When it comes to 12 partners, 15 directors, 9 consultants, 43 managers and 18 assistant managers, and a small amount of more than £4 million in fees, it is going to be very difficult to ring-fence that lot when another project to investigate its workings comes into the office.

The lesson learnt in future will simply be that professional firms just don't take up such assignments.

But the Robson Rhodes case is different. Their partner, Frank Attwood, who had triumphed over Ernst & Young in the Merretts case, was asked by a group of Lloyd's names to act as an expert witness against Pannell Kerr Forster on a similar case. He did so. The work started.

Then came the news that Robsons intended merging with Pannells. Attwood said that they would have to resign the work. The syndicate took him and the firm to court and argued that this would be a breach of contract. The syndicate won. And the judge imposed a series of conditions laying down how confidentiality was to work, assuming the merger is voted through by partners.

One of the conditions is that neither of the partners involved can attend partners' meetings during the period of the action. As a result, neither Frank Attwood nor his fellow partner, Hosein Hamedani, can go to the partners' meeting which will vote on the merger.

But the process is aided by the fact that it involves a very small team of people. It is more manageable. And the process is also aided by the fact that the judge refined Lord Millett's judgment in the Prince Jefri case.

Lord Millett said then that "in my opinion, an effective Chinese wall needs to be an established part of the organisational structure of the firm, not created ad hoc and dependent on the acceptance of evidence sworn for the purpose by members of staff engaged on the relevant work".

But in the Robson Rhodes judgment, Mr Justice Laddie says: "The crucial question is will the barriers work? If they do, it does not matter whether they were created before the problem arose or are erected afterwards.

"It seems to me that all Lord Millett was saying was that Chinese walls which have become part of the fabric of the institution are more likely to work than those artificially put in place to meet a one-off problem."

So what now appears to be acceptable is that Attwood and his team have to work in a separate building, not take part in partnership affairs and have all their documentation removed and held at the firm's solicitors.

In short, the Chinese walls should be effective and rigorous and be seen by the outside world to be serious. Professional firms should, in short, behave professionally. There is nothing new in that sentiment. But professional firms, be they lawyers, accountants or whoever, would do themselves several favours by sticking to that simple adage.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

More pressing concerns

IT WAS, of course, the power of the press. This week the effort by Arthur Andersen to poach the KPMG practice in Canada was aborted amid a welter of recriminations. But those in the know suggest that one of the reasons is that press barons like to keep their own company. Rupert Murdoch is chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, and News Corp is audited by Arthur Andersen. Conrad Black, whose Hollinger company owns *The Daily Telegraph* among other publications, has KPMG Canada as auditors. It is thought that he preferred to stick to the idea that never the twain should meet.

Party on

AT LEAST Robson Rhodes partner Frank Attwood will be able to go to the odd Christmas party this year. Having been barred from partners' meetings as a result of being an expert witness in a case in which a Lloyd's syndicate is suing Robson's new merger partner, Pannell Kerr Forster, the Chinese walls do not go as far as that. He will still be allowed a social life. The judgment that defines the relevent restrictions considered the hypothetical idea of preventing Attwood "meeting at a Christmas party another partner of Robson Rhodes who, for part of his time, happens to work with an ex-Pannell Kerr Forster partner who is, or was, connected in some way with the Syndicate litigation". Fortunately for Attwood, Mr Justice Laddie decided that in his view "that goes far beyond preventing leakage of information and extends into the realm of the fanciful and theoretical".

Anticlimax

WHEN Gordon Brown became Chancellor of the Exchequer we heard much in favour of the idea of a general anti-avoidance rule, a GAAR, to curb the antisocial behaviour of tax advisers who preferred to help taxpayers to keep their money rather than giving too much of it to the Treasury.

Now the impracticalities of such a rule have sunk in, there has been much less rattling of Treasury sabres. But tax insiders are looking out for the Chancellor's holiday plans. Portugal has just introduced a GAAR.

ROBERT BRUCE

Record run continues

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

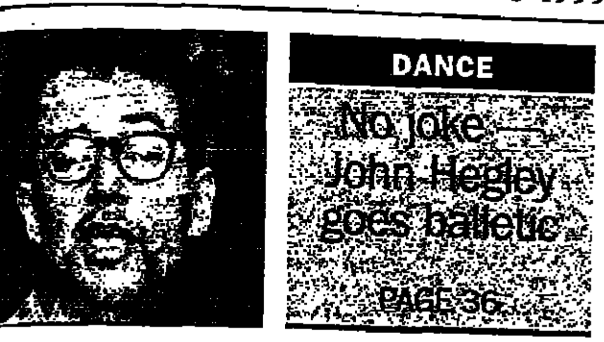
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
ACM INVESTMENTS LTD				
0171 470 0100				
Short Dur Gilt	139.70	141.30	- 0.29	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.9484	0.8573	+ 0.05	
Gilt Income	55.52	56.39	+ 0.16	5.40
Gilt Growth	101.50	105.10	+ 0.49	
Sterling Bond	56.50	57.50	- 0.18	5.50
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7600				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	148.78	158.56	- 0.77	
-do- NAV to Jan 19	145.58	145.58		
UK Equity Safeguard	119.77	128.10	4.70	3.75
-do- NAV to Mar 19	116.0506	116.0506		
US Eqy Safeguard	98.85	104.98	- 0.65	
Cash	956.91	961.70		4.50
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	480.31	457.93	- 2.96	1.19
UK Small Cos	96.39	103.09	- 0.11	0.35
FTSE 250 Index	111.95	119.74	- 0.14	1.95
Geared UK Index	#25.963	#27.4081	- 0.30	4.00
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.49	91.46	- 0.30	5.75
Monthly Inc	43.56	46.695	- 0.13	8.44
International Funds				
American Gen	401.10	423.16	- 0.40	
American Stra	186.77	199.38	- 0.52	
JG US Index	#31.664	#32.559	0.17	4.50
European Gen	452.78	477.63	+ 2.77	0.09
European Stra	216.54	231.10	- 4.20	
Japan Gen	122.23	125.26	- 0.91	
Asia Pacific	69.76	74.54	- 1.17	1.69
Pacific Stra	99.47	106.39	- 1.52	
Greater China	176.07	188.91	- 4.44	
Latin America	72.62	77.59	- 0.66	
Int Growth	208.68	222.56	- 1.64	
Balanced Exempt	187.01	193.79		
Global Strategy	52.70	57.82	- 0.42	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	77.97	77.97		
Challenger	115.75	121.60		
Distributor	158.01	168.09†		
European	112.18	119.33		
Exmpt Fd Gilt	124.25	124.45		
Exempt Global	121.26	122.41†		
Managed Inc	317.86	337.31		
Managed Acc	327.88	348.80		
Growth Inc	213.74	227.38†		
Growth Acc	226.25	240.68†		
Higher Income Inc #	50.75	53.98†		
-do- Accum #	68.29	72.64†		
High Yield Bond #	106.37	117.41†		
Income	457.98	487.21†		
Increpid	199.07	207.35		
Intl Grth	53.21	56.60†		
Japan	29.82	31.72		
Oriental Inc	110.77	117.83		
-do- Accum	115.70	123.08		
Pan-Euro	101.48	107.95		
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	186.77	196.11†		
UK Equity ‡	60.57			
UK Equity Income #	58.77			
UK Smaller Cos ‡	62.83			
UK Equity Growth ‡	63.16			
UK Index Trckg ‡	58.27			
Intl Index Trckg ‡	59.99			
International ‡	56.65			
European ‡	56.54			
Nth American ‡	54.61			
N Amer Smlr Cos ‡	49.89			
Japanese ‡	71.86			
Pacific ‡	60.73			
South East Asian ‡	60.67			
Sterling Bond ‡	52.58			
Intl Bond ‡	51.44			
Property	98.56	103.45		

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
NEW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01628 825067				
Balanced Fd #	1625.30	1650.70†		2.89
Income #	1325.40	1346.90†		3.80
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	214.40	219.30†		3

OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD



DANCE
No joke: John Hegley goes balletic
PAGE 36

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC
Double tribute to Sir Neville Marriner
PAGE 37

NEW MOVIES: John Travolta's yuppie lawyer keeps **James Christopher** gripped, even without any nymphomaniacs

Legal eagle has a flutter

A *Civil Action* has none of the Hollywood ingredients of a great courtroom thriller. There are no psychotic attorneys, no heart-clutching car chases, no nymphomaniacs. The film is an old-fashioned slow-burner, based on a small environmental catastrophe in one of the most boring bits of New England that God created. I've been there. The town of Woburn is stretched out like a road-kill beside an anonymous motorway.

Yet *A Civil Action* is the most compelling legal drama I've seen in years. Part of the fascination is undoubtedly the fact that it is based on a real case, expertly documented in Jonathan Harr's bestselling novel. But the reason the film grips is an alarming national conviction that courts in America have more in common with casinos than democracy.

Travolta's plump ambulance-chaser, Jan Schlichtmann, never lets go of the analogy. As the case unfolds his voiceover unleashes statistics, calls the odds and places the bets. The case itself is utterly self-evident. Local chemical companies have been illegally dumping toxic waste into the ground for years. The chemicals have dribbled into the water system, and eight families have suffered the deaths of children, mental deficiencies, and leukaemia.

The task of proving anything is an entirely different matter. Stuffed into an expensive Italian suit, Travolta's slick Boston yuppie initially resists the action. But compelled by his crusading sense of vanity, he breaks all his own rules and finds himself squaring up to companies with no scruples and very deep pockets. Worse, he finds himself squaring up to Robert Duvall's wily defence lawyer in a titanic battle of nerve. The director Steven Zaillian casts brilliantly.

There is the usual spread of villains and victims, the slow drip of evidence being collected, and the sight of witnesses (Stephen Fry and Tony Shalhoub) being squeezed like sponges. But it's the exhilarating clash of egos and styles that proves so compelling. Travolta milks the jury, while Duvall's shrivelled old-timer coolly beguiles the judge. Duvall is terrifying because he never seems to be there, even when he *is* there. Apart from the sly self-demeaning chuckle, he does little but Sellotape his battered briefcase, play with pens, eat his packed lunches, and listen to the Red Sox game on his transistor.

Shot with claustrophobic formality in oak-stained courtrooms, stuffy Boston clubs and swanky hotel suites, the film cleverly pricks away at more deep-seated insecurities. Travolta, obsessed as he is by exposing the truth, is derailed by pride. Haemorrhaging money it hasn't got, Travolta's practice plunges towards bankruptcy. One of the great imponderables is why his hapless partners (led by the excellent William H. Macy) allow themselves to be sucked into the abyss. Travolta is still swatting away multimillion-dollar settlements — the Holy Grails of his practice — as the bailiffs move into their offices. A portrait of an heroic idealist, or the reckless stand of an egomaniac? Draw your own conclusions.

Rose Troche's romantic, London-based comedy, **Bedrooms and Hallways**, slots neatly between David Kane's *This Year's Love* and the forthcoming *Notting Hill*. Simon Callow has never been so funny, or so spectacularly miscast, as a heterosexual New Age svengali who runs a male support group. Every week the club meet in his Tibetan room to contemplate the spiritual business of being male. "Will you pass Terry the harpoon please?" he croons as another acolyte struggles with his inner demons. The macho dynamics are hilariously short-circuited when Kevin McKidd's grumpy Leo is physically attracted to James Purefoy's hunky Brendan. Chaos, jealousy and homophobia divide the men, and the plot goes haywire. The delectable Jennifer Ehle comes knocking at McKidd's door, and discovers that her first boyfriend is having an affair with her recent ex. Troche pushes the film towards outright farce with her kitsch cutaways to McKidd's pina colada fantasies. But it is splendidly salvaged by memorable cameos from a raft of bitchy British thesps, notably Tom Hollander, Hugo Weaving and Harriet Walter.

Personality disorder of the week goes to **The Faculty** in charge of a decrepit high school in Ohio. The football coach is psychotic, the history teacher is a chronic alcoholic, and the English tutor is in serious need of therapy. So far, so perfectly normal, until the faculty is invaded by alien squid foetuses from outer space. The red parasites crawl into ears, wriggle around under the skin and, in moments of high excitement, explode out of faces like giant catfish.

Amazingly, none of the pupils seems to care apart from the school geek, Elijah Wood. Kevin Williamson, the scribe behind the Post-Modern teen horror *Scream*, provides another trainspotter's medley of horror clichés. The surprise is that it's actually quite entertaining in the "who's next for calimari?" vein, as the director, Robert Rodriguez, flogs the creeping paranoia with seat-clutching wit.

Robert Lepage's third feature, **Nô**, is a self-contained chunk of his dazzling seven-hour stage epic, *Seven Streams of the River Ota*. A gawky actress (Anne-Marie Cadieux) plays a sluttish maid in a ridiculous Feydeau farce chosen to represent Canada at the 1970 World Fair in Osaka. Her boyfriend (Alexis Martin) makes bombs for the Quebec separatist movement in his flat in Montreal. From these unpromising ingredients Lepage fashions a supple black comedy. There are ingenious sleights of hand, but little hard evidence as to what exactly is going on. What's left is a psychedelic chain of associations and a lot of intriguing questions.

Music has illuminated François Girard's best work, notably *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*. In **The Red Violin**, it is a musical instrument that obsesses the director. The violin, varnished with a dead woman's blood, turns successive fiddlers into the Jimi Hendrix of their age. It's a wildly romantic, utterly corny fable that spans three centuries, five languages and several continents. But like the violin itself, the film is spookily hard to put down.

The action pivots around an auction room in Montreal. Between bids, the film flashes through the past owners like an episodic thriller. Shifts of time and place are cleverly counterpointed by shifts in musical styles (John Corigliano). But there isn't a single frame that aspires to anything more substantial than shameless myth-making. Jason Flemyng's Byronic genius cradles it between his naked thighs. Greta Scacchi's lamentable Pre-Raphaelite tears her clothes off at the mere sound of it. Samuel L. Jackson's American specialist drools over its quality. A ripping yarn, if not ripping art.

Justice gets its second mauling of the week in Marc Levin's **Slam**, a fierce film that documents the fears of a black poet who gets sucked into the prison system on a minor drugs charge. Saul Williams puts in a hair-raising performance as the dreadlocked poet who keeps the prison-yard meat-heads at bay with bursts of rapping eloquence. If his stand is somewhat crudely overlaid with symbolism, the urgency with which it's filmed is not. Williams, a gaunt, troubled presence, makes a sensational screen debut. The gritty, documentary style frames his edgy performance without lionising it. The film has already picked off two top festival awards at Cannes and Sundance. I won't be remotely surprised if it picks up more.

Even garbage collectors might choke on Trey Parker's spoof of the LA porn industry, **Orgazmo**. A Bible-thumping Mormon (Parker) ends up in a porn flick, dressed as a caped crusader. His diminutive sidekick, Ben Chapleski, sports a giant phallus on top of his head and launches himself at naked women. Parker's insufferable fiancée nearly expires with shock. To say I nearly expired with excitement would be deeply misleading.

A Civil Action
Empire
15, 115 mins
Meaty courtroom drama with John Travolta and Robert Duvall

Bedrooms and Hallways
UCI Whiteleys
15, 96 mins
Playful comedy about male bonding

The Faculty
Warner Village West End
15, 104 mins
Fishy sci-fi chiller with high comedy quota

Nô
Barbican
15, 85 mins
A slick, seductive conjuring trick from Robert Lepage

The Red Violin
Odeon Haymarket
15, 130 mins
Ripping yarn with spooky violin

Slam
Metro
15, 99 mins
The gritty, enthralling world of a rap poet

Orgazmo
Plaza
18, 90 mins
Slapstick on a porno set

LINKS

WEBSITE:
A Civil Action: www.uip.com
The Faculty: www.thefaculty.co.uk
Orgazmo: www.cluborgazmo.com
TELEVISION:
Film '99 With Jonathan Ross: BBC1, Wednesday 11.05pm
Barry Norman's Film Night: Sky Premier, Sunday 9pm, Wednesday 7.30pm



Mug shots: Robert Duvall and John Travolta are on opposite sides in Steven Zaillian's compelling fact-based courtroom drama, *A Civil Action*

NEW ON VIDEO

■ **LE BOSSU**
Pathé, 15, 1997
FRENCH cinema likes this swashbuckling tale of honour, greed and revenge in the early 18th century: this is its sixth remake. It makes excellent material for Daniel Auteuil and Fabrice Luchini, perfectly cast as a dashing sword-for-hire and the villain who grabs wealth and a title. Philippe de Broca's film lacks the visual finesse of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, but its humour, good spirits and rousing swordplay provide many other delights. Marie Gillan adds the feminine touch. To buy or rent.

■ **BUFFALO '66**
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1997
VINCENT GALLO stars in and makes his quirky directing debut with this wayward tale of a malcontent convict returning home to his unresponsive parents in Buffalo, New York. Along the way he kidnaps a tap-dancing student (a great performance from Christina Ricci) and gets her to pose as his wife. Gallo the director indulges Gallo the actor rather too much, but a good first feature. Available to rent.

■ **PRIMARY COLORS**
CIC, 15, 1998
REAL events may have overtaken this slick account of a Clintonesque Governor's scandal-ridden race to the White House. But nothing has eroded the finely pitched performances, nor director Mike Nichols's skill in juggling his bustling characters. John Travolta is convincingly charismatic as the would-be President with a silver tongue and a fatal attraction for the opposite sex, while Emma Thompson hits all the right notes as his sharp cookie of a wife. A rental release.

■ **RIEN NE VA PLUS**
Artificial Eye, 15, 1997
ISABELLE HUPPERT and Michel Serrault would be worth watching even if they did nothing but stand at a bus stop, though you still wish Claude Chabrol, the director, had filled this comedy thriller with something more worth their time. They play an ill-matched couple of swindlers who get into deeper water than usual with an international money scam. Lots of fun early on, full of piquant human observations; but boredom creeps in once the scam moves in. Chabrol's fiftieth feature.

GEOFF BROWN

■ **LISTINGS**
Rachel Weisz on stage

ARTS

■ **THEATRE**
Singing along with Abba

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER: Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs.
Comedy (0171-369 1731). Previews from tonight, 8pm.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: The series contrasting Berg and Brahms continues with Daniele Gatti conducting Berg's Violin Concerto (soloist Mark Kaplan) and two works by Brahms: Variations on a theme by Haydn and the Third Symphony.
Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

BLOOD KNOT: Barry Wallman and Gordon Case star in Athol Fugard's updated version of his celebrated black and white brothers play. Wilfred Judd directs.
Riverside Studios (0181-237 1111). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.



Van the Man opens the Cheltenham Jazz Festival

ELSEWHERE

CHELTENHAM: Veteran rocker-cum-jazzman, Van Morrison, kicks off the International Jazz Festival here. The gravel-voiced singer is joined on stage by a live band headed by saxophonist Pee Wee Ellis (Town Hall, tonight, 7.15pm and 9.15pm). The festival continues until Sunday with contributions from Humphrey Lyttelton, Chick Corea, Django Bates and many more.
Festival Box Office (01242 227979).

GLASGOW: The Royal Scottish National Orchestra concludes its Discovery Series with an evening of British music. Purcell opens the programme followed by the Scottish premiere of Tippett's colourful The Rose Lake, Walton's Cello Concerto, performed by Raphael Wallfisch, and Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. James Loughran conducts.
Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7pm.

MANCHESTER: Soprano Rebecca Evans joins the Hallé Orchestra as soloist in Britten's Les Illuminations. Two symphonies follow: Mozart's *Linz* and Beethoven's Eroica. The conductor is Iona Brown.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

OXFORD: After an extended London run Fascinating Aida's latest show, Barefaced Chic, arrives in town for three nights of topical satire and song.
Playhouse (01865 798600). Tonight and Sat, 7.30pm. Tomorrow, 8pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **MAMMA MIA!:** Musical based on the songs of Abba: Siobhan McCarthy and Lisa Stokke play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs. See review, right.
Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

□ **ROBERTO ZUCCO:** James Macdonald's acclaimed Stratford production of Bernard-Marie Koltes's mesmerising drama. Zubin Varla plays the killer hero.
Pit (0171-638 8891).

□ **THE GIN GAME:** Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland play old folk in a retirement home whose card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prizewinner.
Savoy (0171-836 8888).

□ **THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE:** Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800).

■ **GOOD:** C.P.Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grandage directs.
Donmar (0171-369 1732).

□ **THE COLONEL BIRD:** Bulgarian author Hristo Boytchev's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the lunatics. Rupert Gould directs.
Gate (0171-229 0706).

□ **SACRED HEART:** In Mick Mahoney's new play two second-generation Irish lads from NW3 meet again after years estranged. Edward Hall directs.
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

□ **GROSS INDECENCY:** The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hoyland and Clive Francis as counsel for and against, in Moises Kaufman's play.
Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

□ **HAMLET:** Paul Rhys plays the prince in Laurence Boswell's new production. With Donald Sumter as Claudius.
Young Vic (0171-928 6363).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG): Flashes of genius and dry humour illuminate Zeffirelli's sentimental tribute to the culture-mad English spinsters who raised the director in Florence before Mussolini jailed them. With Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15): Jake Scott's 18th-century swashbuckler is closer to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid than The Rake's Progress. With Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12): Ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. His 1950s values make him look mystical, mad, and blindingly naive in the sleazy 1990s. Bill Kelly directs.

BEYOND SILENCE (12): Plucky performances can't save this: a tortuous trawl through a German soap in which a young girl tries to get a life beyond her profoundly deaf parents. Caroline Link directs

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12): Charles Laughton's one and only stab at directing is a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Mitchum's crooked preacher is unforgettable. An absolute classic 1955 fear movie.

AUGUST IN THE WATER (ICA): You could hang Sogo Ishii's surreal Japanese science fiction in the Tate. It's a beautiful, inscrutable look at a city cursed by drought and a mysterious epidemic that turns the guts to stone.

CURRENT

GODS AND MONSTERS (15): Ian McKellen excels as a legendary horror movie director who grooms his gardener (Brendan Fraser) for a role far darker than that of over-muscled escort. Bill Condon directs.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18): Edward Norton is ferociously compelling as a white supremacist skinhead in Tony Kaye's lavish, controversial but doomed attempt to get under the skin of an American tragedy.

PAYBACK (18): Mel Gibson blasts his way through Brian Helgeland's chunky thriller. With Gregg Henry, William Devane, James Coburn and Kris Kristofferson.

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U): Painless, big cartoon adventure in which farting toddlers bond in a spooky forest. Witty enough for adults; an unavoidable necessity for three to eight-year-olds.

Tonic for troupers

THEATRE

Mamma Mia!
Prince Edward

Imagine you decided to slot *Ring-a-Roses*, *The Grand Old Duke of York*, *Hushabye Baby* and a score of other nursery hums into a musical play about the intricacies of bee-keeping or the perils of hang-gliding. You would have set yourself a challenge only a little more taxing than that facing the creators of *Mamma Mia!*, who are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Abba's Eurovision Song Contest triumph by cramming 20 or so of their numbers into an endearingly preposterous tale about a bride's search for her dad.

How does this exercise in creative shoehorning work? Well, take the celebrated title song, which most people would assume to be all about a child's ambivalent feelings for a maddening mum. Here it is the mother who is singing that she's brokenhearted, blue since the day we parted. Here, the joint objects of her woe are the three men she loved and lost 21 years ago. And, believe it or not, it is they who chorus all that guff about taking one look, hearing a bell ring and forgetting everything.

Fortunately, our librettist is Catherine Johnson, who has a nice, naff story to tell and her tongue stuck so far into her cheek it tumbles out of an ear and down to a knee. How else would she get away with setting her story in and around a white-plastered taverna on an Aegean island where there are no suntans, no music that doesn't hie from Sweden, and, apart from a priest dressed as an Anglican vicar, nary a Greek to be seen? How else would she get away with that story?

Lisa Stokke's sweet young Sophie has belatedly twigged that her long-missing, long-unmentioned Pa is either a banker, an architect or a travel-writer. So she secretly invites all three to her wedding in hopes of discovering which of them should be giving her away. This comes as rather a shock to her mother Donna. Take an educated guess at the reaction of Siobhan McCarthy, the splendidly feisty, full-voiced actress who plays the part. That's right, it is to launch into the song *SOS* with the most appealing of the candidates, Hilton Macrae's architect: I wish I understood, our love used to be so good, etc, etc.

As many another number re-emphasises, lyrics were never Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus's strength. It was the pounding rhythms that mattered, along with melodies that remained relentlessly upbeat whatever the emotional provocation. Time after time on the first night the familiar sounds were greeted with applause and knowing laughter. After all, to follow Donna's collapse in dismay with *Chiquitita* — "tell me the truth, I'm a shoulder you can cry on, your best friend and the one you must rely on" — is quite a jolly in-joke, especially when the song is robustly rendered by Louise Plowright and Jenny Galloway.

Yes, and before a setting moon twice as big as Naxos has brought Phyllida Lloyd's bouncy production to a suitably improbable close, we somehow contrive to hear *Money, Money, Money*, *Super Trouper* and lots more. For that, Abba fans will doubtless forgive anything. And with so much fun in the theatrical air, the rest of us might as well indulge them.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

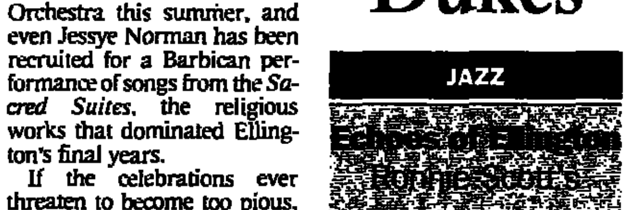
● *This review appeared in late editions of* The Times *yesterday*



Dancing queens: (from left) Louise Plowright (Tanya), Siobhan McCarthy (Donna), Jenny Galloway (Rosie)

Putting up his Dukes

JAZZ



The Duke's centenary falls this month, and the party is warming up nicely. Serious collectors will be rummaging through the 24 discs in RCA's new *Centennial Edition*. Wynton Marsalis pays his own tribute with his Lincoln Centre Jazz Orchestra this summer, and even Jessye Norman has been recruited for a Barbican performance of songs from the *Sacred Suites*, the religious works that dominated Ellington's final years.

If the celebrations ever threaten to become too pious, Pete Long's anorak-free orchestra, Echoes of Ellington, will always be around to supply some perspective. There is never any doubting Long's commitment to the cause, but the irreverent, freewheeling mood he generates on the bandstand also reminds us that, for Ellington, composition was not something to be pondered on Mt Olympus but a hectic work-in-progress to be pursued in clubs, on trains and in quiet corners of studios.

Although the atmosphere is never less than convivial — evoking the speakeasy years at the Cotton Club or the barnstorming ambience of the Newport Festival shows — the choice of material veers a long way from the standard greatest-hits package.

True, we did get *Take the A-Train*, yet even here Long looked to an offbeat source, resurrecting the pungent arrangement that Billy Strayhorn scribbled out at short notice for the *Songbook* album with Ella Fitzgerald. Patricia Revell handled the vocals with cool flair; Bruce Adams added a playful muted trumpet solo.

Revell was back on hand for *Rose of the Rio Grande*, an ancient Harry Warren hit which found its way on to the programme for Ellington's historic Carnegie Hall concert of 1943, but the jaunty melody sat uneasily alongside Ellington's own work.

Rockin' in Rhythm had set the evening off on a familiar note, but the programme continually sprang surprises. Ellington's very first tune, *Soda Fountain Rag*, was recreated by Don Innes at the piano, and the orchestra plunged convincingly into the funereal harmonies of Mercer Ellington's *Blue Serge*.

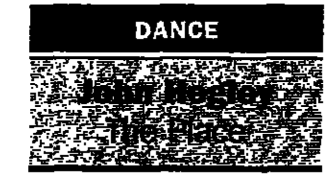
The Blanton-Webster band of the early 1940s served as a touchstone, but the time-travelling delved further back on *Rent Party Blues*, initially propelled by Clark Tracey's quaint two-beat pulse on the cymbal.

Trombones and reeds did not always mesh, and the recently rediscovered closing number by Strayhorn, *Pentonsilic*, outstayed its welcome. But the spirit of the music came through loud and clear.

CLIVE DAVIS

The words have it

DANCE



They don't come more opposite than poetry and dance. The one speaks directly from the mind, the other directly from the body. So what happens when you put them together, as this year's *Spring Loaded* festival at London's Place Theatre has done? Not a lot, as it happens, because this innovative event, which calls itself *Elbow Room*, has thrown away the opportunity to make something of itself.

The poetry comes courtesy of John Hegley, a very funny man, and even funnier on stage than on the page. His poems, many about growing up in Luton, are packaged as comedy but carry a bite. Beneath the bass line of his pleasantly silly rhymes lurks a clutch of astringent arrows. Hegley fires them with maximum accuracy and timing; just when you think a poem is nonsense he turns it around in a flash.

His verse is the most commendable offering in a two-hour revue that sees the comedian acting as both compere and star attraction. The dance is represented by several short duets of little import, along with two longer chunks of dance theatre. In the best tradition of variety entertainment, a little music is thrown in, along with a couple of cabbages — chucked at the audience at the show's start just to ensure we are awake when the lurid red house lights dim. Potatoes come later, part of Hegley's reprise of last year's *Dances With Potatoes*.

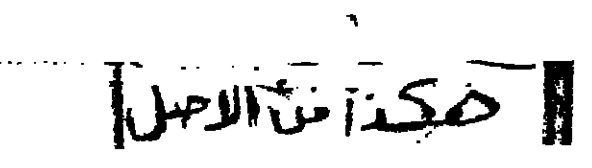
The only substantial dance is *Cinder Reilly*, a goofy retelling of the Cinderella tale performed by the Irish dance theatre company Clerkinworks. They tap their way saucily through a mildly entertaining spoof in which Cinders gets less than she bargained for. The jokes are thin; the choreography even thinner.

Wendy Houston gets the second half's centrepiece. Her *Happy Hour* is "15 minutes of some bits of a longer piece" and we can only be grateful that we were not subjected to the fully monty. In this display of theatrical vanity, Houston regales us with a verbal monologue that sees her adopt several tedious personae: from a wheedling bartender to a self-recriminating drunk. A perfunctory arsenal of agitated gestures accompanies this feeble and boring enterprise.

If Hegley's own meagre contribution to the proceedings is any indication, he views dance merely as physical punctuation to his words. He moves with an intriguing flexibility and intelligence, but shows no understanding of what it is that dance can say and words cannot. And if the bard of Luton is so interested in dance why has he surrounded himself with such second-rate acts?

DEBRA CRAINE





■ MUSIC
Neville Marriner at 75



ARTS

■ CLASSICAL CDS
Brendel's Beethoven

Forty years in fields of glory

MUSIC: Richard Morrison meets Sir Neville Marriner, as he prepares to conduct his 75th birthday gala

SUZIE MAEDER

Sir Neville Marriner: "The most important test of a future Academy player is to take them on tour and see if you can bear to spend time with them"

If ever a pocket cartoon summed up a man's achievement, it was the celebrated one carried by *The New Yorker* a few years ago. It showed a parrot listening to the radio. Out of the airwaves came the announcer's voice: "That was the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields . . ." Quick as a *flash*, the parrot chirped in: ". . . conducted by Sir Neville Marriner."

There was indeed a time when this majestic combo seemed intent on recording everything and touring everywhere. Ask Marriner how many pieces he has recorded and he answers, with delightful nonchalance: "Oh, someone totted them up once, but they lost count after 1,600."

Today, with the record industry much shrunken, the Academy's dominance is less marked — but it remains the most famous chamber orchestra in the world. Time, then, to celebrate Marriner's achievement, for next week a Festival Hall concert marks not only his own 75th birthday but also the 40th anniversary of the auspicious moment when he founded the ensemble that transformed orchestral standards for ever.

The London music scene of the 1950s was very different from today's: less disciplined, more ebullient. For a while Marriner, an LSO violinist, larked about with the best of them. "I used to travel to concerts with a violinist called Peter Gibbs, who had been an RAF pilot and owned a Tiger Moth," he recalls. "One day we took a lot of flour-bags up with us and bombed the LSO bus on the road from Brussels to Ostend. *I don't think I could tolerate players like that in my orchestra now.*"

But something in Marriner rebelled against this easy-going scene. The concept of the Academy began innocuously enough. "We didn't take it seriously at first," he says. "We used to gather in my flat to play chamber music for fun. Then our keyboard player, Jack Churchill, who was music director at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, suggested that we give a concert there after a service. He said stragglers were always hanging around, hoping to keep warm.

"Well, we discussed names in the pub. We weren't big enough to be called an orchestra, and we hated the word 'ensemble'. Then the vicar said: 'You know that around the Strand in the 18th century there were clubs called academies, for people with similar interests in the arts or sciences?' We said: 'Fine, we'll call ourselves the Academy.' Then he said: 'Don't forget the church . . .' So we came up with this ridiculous name."

Ridiculous or not, it was instantly successful. The boss of the newly founded L'Oiseau Lyre record label came to that first concert and signed up the Academy on the spot. "We immediately recorded all those Italian ice-cream merchants: Manfredini, Corelli, and so on," Marriner recalls. "So in one leap we had gone from being a friendly society into something almost professional."

The rest is history. The Sixties were the boom years of stereo, and Marriner — who quickly turned from fiddle to baton — fashioned the perfect recording orchestra: clean in texture, clinical in technique, brilliant in timbre. "The work flooded in. I remember recording all the Mozart horn concertos twice in the same week for different labels."

> ‘Like Solti I think I will keep on going until I'm stopped’

Marriner complains of being "typecast" by those early years. "Because I cultivated a lively style, people somehow thought I was too superficial for the po-faced stuff like Mahler." In fact, as his career blossomed conducting European and American symphony orchestras, he broadened his repertoire hugely. *Does he ever turn on the radio and not recognise a recording as his?* "Sometimes you turn on the radio and *hope* it isn't yours. That happens to many musicians. I remember Alfred Brendel recalling how he was listening to a piano recital on the radio, and making a mental note of everything he didn't like about it, when the announcer said that the pianist was Alfred Brendel."

Marriner's way of selecting players for the Academy has remained constant. First comes an audition. "You can tell within five minutes what they can do." Then they are put into the Academy for a concert or two to see how quickly they absorb its immaculate ensemble style. "But the most important test," Marriner says, "is to take them on tour and see if you can bear to spend time with them. If they are miserable devils, they don't get invited back."

About two applicants in a hundred get through, and the turnover is high. "The average age of players in this 40-year-old orchestra is about 30," Marriner notes. "We find that the women have babies and then can't tour, while the men sooner or later need more security than we can offer, and join one of the salaried orchestras."

Marriner takes little trouble to conceal his disdain for the latter. "I get so mad with contract orchestras. Invariably, two people are missing from any rehearsal because they are at the dentist — usually a viola and double bass." The most pampered orchestras, he says, are in America. "The union rules there are so restrictive that orchestras virtually price themselves out of recordings. In Munich, the conductor can call a 12-hour rehearsal with two half-hour breaks, if he wants. In America a rehearsal is two-and-a-half hours maximum, with at least 20 minutes off, and they will stop in mid-bar if you overrun."

Similarly, Marriner has a strong aversion to government subsidy. The Academy has always been unsubsidised. "If the Arts Council give you money, they also tell you how to spend it. We didn't want other people's fingers poking into our artistic pie. Of course, the result is that the orchestra is always on a knife-edge, financially." That's why the Academy can be heard regularly in Germany (where ticket prices are much higher) yet has no London season. "We once sold out the Festival Hall and still lost £32,000 in a single night," Marriner says.

He talks of loosening ties with the Academy, having "decided two or three years ago *that I wasn't immortal*". *And* he revels in his new rural life in Devon. "I find that, when I'm filling in the diary for 2004, my wife has already booked weeks that are important for work in the garden."

But what of his work with orchestras round the world? "Like Solti, I will probably go on until I'm stopped," he says wryly. "The awful thing about a conductor becoming geriatric is that you seem to become *more* desirable, not less. I just wish all these offers had come in when I was 30."

● Times readers can purchase two tickets for the price of one on the top three ticket prices (£30, £24, £18) for Sir Neville Marriner's 75th Birthday Gala Concert, performed by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields at the Festival Hall next Wednesday at 7.30pm. To book, call Times Live on 0870-842 2212. Lines are open 24 hours a day. The programme is Mozart, Britten and Mendelssohn

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Brahms with bite; young Mozart; Brendel shines

CHAMBER

■ **BRAHMS**
Clarinet Quintet, etc
Berg Quartet/Meyer
EMI 5 56759-2 ★ ★ ★ £15.99

MORE live recordings from the Mozartsaal in Vienna's Konzerthaus; and, as ever, there is little doubt about who is playing. From the finely drawn, ardent opening string notes of Brahms's Clarinet Quintet, before the soloist rises, lark-like, this is the distinctive sound of the Alban Berg Quartet. And, with Sabine Meyer's feisty clarinet, this is about the most high-fibre performance in the catalogue.

As the opening movement gets under way, the string ensemble can be gritty, acerbic even. And the slow movement, in this exceptionally close, intimate recording, reveals a fiercely intense partnership between soloist and quartet.

Hariolf Schlichtig, who was the fine viola player of the Cherubini Quartet, throws himself into the fray as the extra player for the Quintet in G, an imaginative and less predictable coupling of repertoire than the often inevitable Mozart Clarinet Quintet. As expected, the Berg Quartet meet the cross-accents of the opening head-on and, with Schlichtig contributing to its rich fabric, stomp splendidly through the Hungarian finale.

HILARY FINCH

OPERA

■ **MOZART**
Mitridate
Dessay/Bartoli/Asawa/Sabbatini/Les Talents Lyriques/Rousset
Decca 460 772-2 (3 CDs) ★ ★ £38.99

THE final quintet of defiance against Roman tyranny, which runs for just under a minute, is one of the few pieces of concise composition in *Mitridate*. The 14-year-old Mozart's excursion into *opera seria* takes its time in telling the story of two brothers, Sifare and Farnace, rivals for the hand of Aspasia on opposing sides in the Graeco-Roman wars. Even the most fervent Mozartian is likely to admit that there are tedious patches. *Mitridate* is rarely staged and even more rarely recorded.

But Decca has taken the plunge and cast the piece most generously. Natalie Dessay is in top form as Aspasia, surrounded by lies, treachery and even a possible marriage with King Mitridate himself. To her go the big emotional outbursts and Dessay dispatches them with almost greedy brilliance.

Decca cast a mezzo (Cecilia Bartoli) and a counter-tenor (Brian Asawa) as the warring brothers. Bartoli is the great stylist, but Asawa is by no means outclassed. Sabbatini makes much of Mitridate's death scene and Rousset is a highly sympathetic conductor.

JOHN HIGGINS

ORCHESTRAL

■ **BEETHOVEN**
Piano Concertos Nos 1-5
Brendel/VPO/Rattle
Philips 462 781-2 (3 CDs) ★ ★ ★ £38.99

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Such joy radiates from the partnership with Simon Rattle and the Vienna Philharmonic, and such seamless give and take from two distinctive but eminently compatible musical personalities, that it is easy to see why Brendel should be content for this fourth go round to be, as he says it will, his last.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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★ Worth hearing
★ ★ Worth considering
★ ★ ★ Worth buying

Bach to nature

CONCERT
OAE/Stutzmann
Barbican

It has never been cooler to be a counter-tenor, never more remunerative to be a mezzo. But when did you last hear a really great contralto? The answer may well be the last time you played a CD by Nathalie Stutzmann, for the French contralto visits England all too seldom, and hers is a truly rare voice.

Her repertoire stretches over at least 400 years of music, but her voice and spirit are never more exquisitely tuned than in the Baroque era. Here, her early training as a bassoon player tells in every sinuously inflected line, every perfectly judged breath. And when the composer is Bach, and instrumental and vocal lines intertwine, then the symbiotic relationship is unusually compelling.

Imagine, then, the "contented rest" of Bach's cantata *Vergnügte Ruh* breathed out in the voices of oboe d'amore (Anthony Robson), violin (Catherine Mackintosh, leading the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and Stutzmann herself. Only the following contemplation of the world as a "house of sin" could have broken the spell; and here Stutzmann's sharp-etched rhythms tightened the tension before it was released once again in the sighs shared with violins and violas as the "wayward heart" wandered, lost without the ballast of its continuo bass.

Susan Sheppard's eloquent cello came into its own, though, underlining Stutzmann's ardent goodnight to the world in the cantata *Ich habe genug*. Stutzmann's contralto traced and paraphrased the valedictory *Song of Simeon* with rare sensitivity, graphically using vowels to lift the melodic line, and consonants to propel it. It was a moving tribute to the late Francis Baines, double-bass player with the OAE, who was commemorated in this concert.

Robson took up a reedy oboe da caccia here, after what seemed an exhausting performance with Mackintosh of Bach's Concerto in C minor for Oboe and Violin. This was a brisk, no-nonsense performance of a work which deserves a little more space. But the Corelli Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 1, which began the evening, lived dangerously without compromising the music, and revealed the OAE's strings at their best.

HILARY FINCH



BOOKS

American in Paris, and London, and . . .

RAYMOND SEITZ

AMERICAN NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY (24 vols.)
Eds. John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes
OUP, £1500
ISBN 0 19 520635 5

Since the beginning of time there have been about half a billion Americans. On the date of Independence in 1776, there were roughly two million people living in the East Coast colonies and the vast uncharted territories beyond. Today there are approximately 270 million, and we will know the exact number shortly after the official census that takes place next year (a decennial nose count is mandated by the US Constitution).

From this historical pool of humanity, the creators of the *American National Biography* have selected 17,500 individuals. Each subject receives a write-up of between 750 and 7,500 words, and the profiles are spread over 24 hefty volumes. The principal criterion — a helpful one — is that the candidate must have expired before 1996. Citizenship is not a prerequisite, but "significant influence" is expected, so some names appear which are customarily associated with other lands. W. H. Auden has an entry (though he did become an American citizen after the war) and so does Peter Sellers, who never thought of changing citizenship. For a nation which is made up of immigrants, transients and a free-flowing population, citizenship would be an unworkable restriction.

Not since putting a man on the Moon has an American organisation undertaken such an ambitious logistical project. The inspirational authority for the task was the American Council of Learned Societies, an umbrella confederation of academic associations founded in 1919. There are 61 member groups running the gamut from the African Studies Association to the Sonneck Society for American Music. The ACLS published the country's first biographic dictionary in the 1930s, and although annual supplements followed, the content and tone of the earlier compendium were considered, by the end of the century, woefully out of date.

From its position at the apex of America's intelligensia, the ACLS was able to exploit the academic network of the United States. Under the direction of managing editor Paul Betz, some 200 senior and associate editors divided into 19 categorical task forces. These committees selected the subjects, commissioned the essays from 6,100 contributors and completed the final review. They were supported by ranks of copy editors and fact-checkers at the Oxford University Press in North Carolina. Money came from the ACLS's own fund-raising as well as grants from the Mellon and Rockefeller Foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The new *Biography*, according to Stanley Katz, the President Emeritus of the ACLS, is the product of the "often invoked, but rarely manifest, scholarly community".

In an era of sometimes cacophonous political correctness, the editors have made a judicious effort to redress the balance between white males, who dominated the earlier biographic dictionary, and women and minorities, who were frequently neglected. Sacagawea, who barely rated a mention before, is here given full treatment, not only for her exploits as guide on the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Northwest Territories, but for her own life as well (we learn, for example, that she married a Shoshone with the unfortunate name of "Jerk Meat").

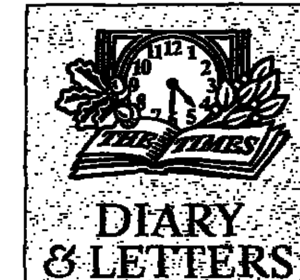
Oscar Charleston, the outstanding black baseball star of the prewar Negro League, is given long overdue recognition. So, too, Martha Ballard whose ordinary life as an 18th-century midwife would have faded into oblivion had it not been for her valuable diaries. More questionable, perhaps, is the inclusion of Benjamin Franklin's common law wife, Deborah, except that she signed her letters to her travelling husband with the words, "Your a feck shonet wife".

These volumes are an absorbing panorama of the long, colourful American parade. As expensive reference works they naturally belong in schools and libraries, and the succinct bibliographies that appear at the end of each entry are a scholar's feast. In a way, this is a pity, because the essays are well written and often entertaining, and the *Biography* would be perfectly suitable for the bedside table were it not for the weight. The pages are strewn with little nuggets.

Take, for example, the profile of George Jessel (1898-1981), the vaudeville comic who turned down the lead role in *The Jazz Singer*. In the same year as the movie appeared (1927), Jessel made a different contribution to life and art. Having mixed a mid-morning tomato drink for himself in a Palm Beach bar, he offered a taste to a Philadelphia socialite named Mary Brown Warburton, who "promptly spilled it down the front of her white gown, thereby christening herself and the drink 'Bloody Mary'."

American National Biography represents such a colossal effort that it probably never would have taken flight without the psychological imperative of the looming millennium. But its publication now is indeed something to celebrate.


Manhattan transfer: W. H. Auden emigrated to New York in 1939 and became an American citizen in 1946



DIARY & LETTERS

■ LUCINDA LAMBTON has been in 31 states in the US this winter, researching a new book (and three television films for the BBC). She has discovered a whole family tribe of Lambtons — though now they spell themselves "Lampton" — descended from some of her own ancestors who went out in 1764. Most of them are in Mississippi, and one of them, she tells us, is a landowner called Dinwiddy Lampton, who has 380 horse-drawn coaches that he drives in turn round his estate. She has also discovered she is related to Mark Twain through his mother. But her book will go beyond the personal to trace the survival of old European ways in America, using all the photographs she has been taking.

■ *THE Bibliothèque nationale of France is moving fast. It has now set up a website for the public on which books amounting to two million pages can be read by the "internauts", as the French call them, along with numerous historic recordings such as Guillaume Apollinaire reading his poems. Many French people will not be sorry if the monstrous new library building is pulled down and hands its job over to the Internet.*

■ **A COLLECTION of essays called *A Passion for Books* is being published by Macmillan for World Book Day on April 23 (£15.99). Among the contributors, Ferdinand Mount takes a swipe at literary theory. John Bayley admits that he hardly remembers the book that won the Booker Prize when he was chairman of the jury, and Margaret Drabble tells a tale that Angus Wilson told her. In the days when he presided over the Reading Room in the British Library, he had occasion to reprimand a woman for eating oranges at her desk. She protested that she was not eating the oranges, just squeezing the juice over the books.**

A light shone on family history

Andrew O'Hagan on the family that built Scotland's lighthouses

THE LIGHTHOUSE STEVENSONS
By Bella Bathurst
HarperCollins, £15.99
ISBN 0 00 257006 8



Victorian fathers cast long shadows. There was something eminently paternal in the spirit of the age. Edmund Gosse pinned it down in *Father and Son*: the lofty father, caustic, remote and busy with the world's small detail, and the solitary son, piddling away the hours in the midst of dreams and fevers.

This was also true for Gosse's acquaintance Robert Louis Stevenson, a brillant writer and a creature of strong fathers, who — to the morning of his death — allowed those fathers to blink in and out of his life. "The atmosphere of his father's sterling industry," wrote Stevenson in his unfinished novel *Weir of Hermiston*, "was the best of Archie's education. Assuredly it did not attract him; assuredly it rather rebutted and depressed. Yet it was still present, unobserved like the ticking of a clock, an arid ideal, a tasteless stimulant in the boy's life."

However arid the ideals of Stevenson's father — and there was always something of the family in his dry cough — the truth must be that their interests were not remote from his character as a writer. Their hard work as engineers, their mastery of weather, mathematics and the high sea, find a strange relative in the sentences of Robert Louis Stevenson, their landlubbing son and grandson and nephew and cousin. In this book, Bella Bathurst has found a way to allow the Stevensons to stand for themselves and yet she also allows for the possibility that we might read, in the story of the fathers, a crucial story of the storytelling son.

Bathurst has a natural gift for narrative. She has a not un-Stevenson-like attentiveness: she catches as much with the ear as the eye. And so we enter into a bold and tender story. Louis's grandfather Robert Stevenson, "a slave to self-improvement", built the Bell Rock lighthouse, off the coast of Arbroath, in 1807. It was a massive undertaking: to build a light on a dangerous crag, using thousands of tons of stone, in the worst of weather and with no great public enthusiasm for the job.

Robert Stevenson is half Abraham, half King Canute; he has a God-fearing resilience as he squares up to the fury of God's elements. He seems to have been a man who was almost overcome with a sense of public duty, and overcome too with a sense of the symbolic value of lighthouses. Bathurst is not the type to be blinded by romance, however. "The fact that he was to be proved right," she says, "makes him admirable, it does not always make him likeable."

You detect more sympathy for Robert's son, Alan, who took up a secret pen and made a friend of Wordsworth, but who toed the line quite spectacularly, by building the lighthouse at Skerryvore. The light stood 138 ft above the first course of stonework: a magisterial construction which threw its light over some of the most treacherous sea imaginable.

Bathurst has qualities of restraint and is Scottishly parsed in the face of the facts: she cleaves ever to the sunnier side of detail and only seldom to emotion. But she has what the best biographers always have — a certain love for her subject. There's an attractive duality at the centre of her affections: she adores the industry of these Stevensons, yet she is mindful of the places where application fails; where the heart gives out.

Louis's father, Thomas — Alan's brother — was never workshy either. Yet he, too, had a secret hankering to be a writer. He crumbled in the face of his father's objections — as his own son would not — and lost himself in note-taking on the subject of waves and "heathen writers". There is an anxiety of influence detectable in each of these men: each of them wanted to live up to his father and yet find a way to live as himself. Robert Louis Stevenson broke excruciating waves of disappointment over his father's head: he turned his back on lighthouses, but in all the squall, he seems to have found his writer's voice.

Bella Bathurst has built a lamp herself: it illuminates the work of a literary hero, a family business, a habit of mind and a Scottish period. She gives us a sense of the lives of the keepers and provides a eulogy for a kind of life now going or gone: all the lighthouses, including the ones built by her Stevensons are now unmanned.

Bella Bathurst is what people used to call the genuine article: from the summit of this terrific first book she looks to become one of the best biographers of her generation. In the meantime, you might do yourself a favour and fold *The Lighthouse Stevensons* into your knapsack.

Hit by a bolt from the blue

LISA JARDINE

BLUE LIGHT
By Walter Mosley
Serpent's Tail, £9.99
ISBN 1 85242 611 X



A strange force is randomly reconstructing the minds of ordinary folk in Sixties San Francisco, in the heyday of the hippy drug-culture. When a flash of cosmic blue light strikes men and women (and even roaming animals) it quickens their DNA, sharpening their faculties and magnifying their physical powers so that they become a superhuman race of the future — "the Blues". Driven into violent action by their heightened awareness, each Blue becomes bent obsessively on realising his or her deepest yearnings: great sex, harmony with nature, abiding compassionate love, or (occasionally) brutal psychotic violence.

One of their number takes on the role of leader, galvanising the Blues into a cult, inventing rituals of mixing and drinking each other's blood to enhance their mystical powers. The woman he was coupled with at the moment the blue light struck becomes the cult's sex goddess, the child conceived in that instant grows to amazonic strength and wrestles bears in the wilderness. But among them stalks Grey Man — a zombie created when the blue light struck a man dying of cancer, at the moment of his death. Grey Man's quest is the destruction of all other Blues, a task he pursues with grizzly determination, dismembering and mutilating Blues and friends of Blues as he tracks them down.

The narrator of this tale is not a Blue, but Chance, a mixed race graduate student, caught up in the Blue world. After abandoning his research on Thucydides, Chance bears witness to the extinguished hopes of the Blues. If we are to believe his tale, it is he who helps finally to annihilate Grey Man and who rescues a Blue remnant to see another day.

Walter Mosley's earlier mysteries, with their quirky black hero-narrator Easy Rawlins, have something of a cult following. He specialises in getting inside the minds and lives of North American itinerant blacks and white trash — living lonely, confused lives in a penumbra world of pain and disappointment on the fringes of affluent society. He writes compelling, gritty, real-life dialogue and crafts his plots around closely observed detail of life as a social outsider.

Blue Light is a new venture into "science fiction". In fact, "science" has very little to do with this fiction, unless we mean the chemistry which produces the substances beloved of drug-users. In *Blue Light*, Mosley details meticulously the grainy, disorientated insanity of being high on something-or-other in San Francisco during the Vietnam War years. He describes with mesmerising clarity the hallucinatory twilight world of nightmares and euphoria inhabited by losers and drifters who move from one fix to another. The blood-exchanges, love-ins and brutalities merge into a single inchoate dreamworld. We cannot even be sure that the entire "History" is not a product of Chance's deluded mind, since at the end of the book he is confined to a state mental hospital, registered as a paranoid schizophrenic.

BOOKS

Washed ashore in a bomb-damaged land

The scarring runs deeper than the flattened landscape in Philip Casey's novel, set in postwar London



Erica Wagner

The water star is a reflection: imperfect, but beautiful in itself. Its darklit image shivers in a breath of wind, or is obscured by the observer's shadow in the moon, but that mutability, that elusiveness, is part of its arresting mystery. Lean down too close to the pool and it will appear to vanish altogether.

Philip Casey's second novel, *The Water Star*, works in the same way. Casey is a poet and a playwright: he has a poet's delicate ear and a playwright's eye for direction. The tale that unfolds in this thick, satisfying volume is not particularly complex — any more than the circumstances of any of our lives are complex, which is to say, infinitely and infinitesimally so. London, 1950: the city is a bomb site, a building site, and there is plenty of work for Brendan and Hugh Kinsella, natives of Co Wexford. Father and son. Brendan's wife and Hugh's mother Máire is dead, buried near the blue Irish mountain that haunts them in their grey London days, Croghan Kinsella.

The city separates them. Each longs for home, for the past, finds himself strange even when not among strangers. The London of Hugh's imagination is nowhere to be found: "When he was a child, he had always thought that London had no hills. He remembered this as he walked up the incline of Tollington Park, past the large Protestant church and into Everleigh Street, where the Irish faithful were congregating. Hugh was perversely proud that his church had a corrugated iron roof, in contrast to its grand Protestant neighbour. No matter that Catholic churches in Ireland were of good stone and slate, the poverty of this one made him feel a cut above the Prods, morally speaking."

But when Hugh's longing manifests itself in a vision of his dead mother, Brendan hides his own sense of loss in a fear of his son's madness, and Hugh goes his own way.

He finds a home with Elizabeth Frampton, who takes him into her house and her bed. She has another lodger, Karl, a German, whose family was killed in Hamburg in the war. He manages his bereavement by carving their effigies as he sits in the garden — and by loving Elizabeth. When she takes to Hugh he is faced with another loss. Brendan, meanwhile, finds comfort after his son's disappearance with Sarah, an Irish woman sent away from home when she became pregnant with her daughter Deirdre. Through the interweaving and the overlapping of these relationships, Casey examines how human nature is shaped by sorrow; how people will find a way — sometimes, it seems, despite themselves — to take comfort from others, to make homes where they can, even among the ruins.

Casey's technique, too, is one of interweaving and overlapping. He will tell the same story more than once, each time from a different vantage point: Hugh's own experience of his arrival at Elizabeth's house and then Karl's vision of the events. Of course, it is not the "same story" that's told, which is precisely the point. As an idea in the abstract this might seem laboured; in the novel, however, it works seamlessly, simply functioning as it is meant to and unfolding the story like a fan.

Karl works as a labourer, too: Elizabeth trusts he will find work for Hugh. As Hugh sees it: "Elizabeth glanced at him across the table. He had been watching a stray hair which had wandered from her well-brushed head. As their eyes met, she looked back again to Karl. 'Can you fix a start for Hugh on Monday?' Karl sized him up. 'If he's willing to work hard. Brickie's mate, Hugh.'"

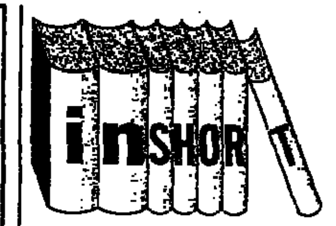
And then, as Karl perceives it: "'Can you fix a start for Hugh on Monday?' She asked quietly. Of course. Elizabeth had but to ask, no matter what complication or indebtedness to those he despised that it might entail. It was against his interest, he knew simply by the way she spoke of the young man; but Elizabeth had made a request. He pretended to consider. 'If he's willing to work hard. Brickie's mate, Hugh.'"

This style, formal yet flexible, opens the novel out, and the different perspectives made these hardscrabble lives — death is a frequent visitor to this household and comfort too easily found in a bottle of wine or whiskey — vivid. Casey's tale comes to the reader bearing praise from Sebastian Barry, and, like the author of *The Steward of Christendom* and *The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty*, he has an unsentimental but affectionate view of Ireland and the Irish.

His language is more austere than Barry's; his characters aren't given to speechifying and a large part of his skill is in the way he digs through their inarticulacy to find the real emotion beneath.

The Water Star is a graceful, gentle novel that does not shy from the truth. Is its metaphor of lives rebuilt from rubble — whether the detritus of the past or the structures shattered by the Blitz — too pat? Perhaps, sometimes. But reading along one finds oneself thinking, yes, but that's just how things *are*. That seems a small thing, but it is a fine compliment to a work of fiction.

THE WATER STAR
By Philip Casey
Picador, £14.99
ISBN 0 330 371 908



Blame it on the theorist

SEVERAL DECEPTIONS
By Jane Stevenson
Jonathan Cape, £14.99
ISBN 0 224 05939 4

JANE STEVENSON'S first collection of fiction consists of four novellas with the common theme of deception. A professor undercut by his own intellect amusingly blames all the problems in his life on the semiotics nut Umberto Eco. In another story, an international lawyer plays at terrorism. But the most finely tuned quart tells the story of Judy O'Grady, an Irish woman who changes her name to Ananda and becomes a novice in a Tibetan nunnery. Things heat up during a spell in Simla, the former British hill-station in northern India, when the unlikely heroine unexpectedly warms to the dying embers of colonialism. Stevenson's careful plotting and attention to detail prove she is a new voice worth listening to.

Into the fire

THE FAREWELL ANGEL
By Carmen Martin Gaite
Harvill, £9.99
ISBN 1 86046 358 4

LEONARDO is released from his Madrid prison cell on the same day as he learns his parents have died in a car crash. He returns home with a full wallet, but his heart is heavier still. First he reminisces in a sepia-tinted haze, churning up memories which eventually lead him to a white house on the edge of a cliff where his grandmother raised him. But it is not until he meets the building's new owner that he is fully redeemed. This is essentially a novel about storytelling. Carmen Martin Gaite, a bestselling author in her native Spain, weaves traditional childhood tales into her own complex and peculiar one.

Alter ego

ALLAN STEIN: A Novel
By Matthew Stadler
Fourth Estate, £10
ISBN 1 84115 107 6

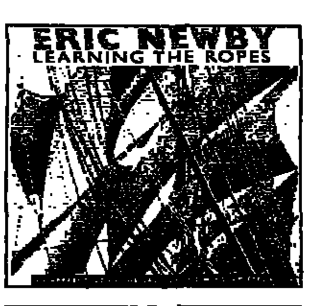
A SUCKER for small boys, Matthew swaps Seattle for Paris after an affair with a 15-year-old pupil switches from fantasy to reality. For the sheer hell of it, rather than disguise, he changes his name to that of his best friend back home: the museum curator Herbert Widener. "Herbert" is pathologically excitable and attracts trouble with the ease of an Enid Blyton heroine, and within 30 pages he becomes embroiled in a mystery involving a set of drawings which feature Allan Stein, the lithe nephew of Gertrude. Slipping in and out of fact and fiction with apparent effortlessness, Matthew Stadler's writing is slick, funny and ever so stylish.

ALEX O'CONNELL

All at sea (and loving it)

Tim Severin delights in a voyage on one of the greatest sailing ships ever built

LEARNING THE ROPES
By Eric Newby
John Murray
£22.50
ISBN 0 7195 5636 8



Thanks to the State Literature Officer of Western Australia, I found myself last month in the small coastal town of Albany running a "Writer's Workshop". Among the local students was a bird of passage: a tall, well-spoken Englishman, rather old-fashioned and — I would guess — in his late fifties. He was, he explained, on his way round the world in a sailing boat travelling in slow stages. He hoped to pick up a few tips about writing up his logbook, and perhaps there would be an eventual account of his voyage. I guessed he was retired and fulfilling his lifelong ambition. I asked him his favourite author — "Eric Newby" was the immediate reply.

He — and other Newby fans — will delight in *Learning the Ropes*. The book is the sequence of Newby's photographs taken during his classic 1938-39 voyage as an apprentice sailor aboard the four-masted barque *Moshulu*. The sea-struck Newby was 18 years old when he signed on for the round-the-world trip to South Australia, outward bound with a load of stone ballast in which the Belfast dockers had concealed two dead dogs as a pungent joke, and back to Europe with a load of wheat. Newby told us the tale initially in *The Last Grain Race* and, more recently, in *What the Traveller Saw*. But no matter — now he gets the chance to show us his photographs, and the publishers have done him proud.

The pictures are thoughtfully presented. They take us from the initial preparations in dock, around the Cape of Good Hope, to the drab little Australian wheat ports, and back home around the Horn with a ferocious gale to contend with. The photographs are superb. Anyone who has known how tired one can be after hours of hard labour at sea must admire the gritty persistence with which the young photographer kept going with his folding bellows Zeiss Super Ikonta. The pictures from aloft which show *Moshulu*'s deck slathered in white foam as the waves break over her in a gale must have required real dedication — one hand on the camera button and the other hanging on for dear life. For all his gentle, wry, self-deprecating humour, Newby has a sinewy determination without which we would never have gone with him *Slowly Down the Ganges* or on *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush*.

The photos give the impression not of tall, graceful elegance, but of brute industrial strength at sea. *Moshulu* and her sister ship bulk carriers were, it is claimed, the most powerful sailing ships ever built. They were also utilitarian to the point of starkness. There was no flourish, no panache, just plain hard-nosed money-making if operating costs could be cut to the bone. So the crews were minimal and stingily paid — Newby got his job by return post because apprentices were cheap labour. He received ten shillings a month. The sailmaker, a master craftsman with 43 years' experience, got £7. The Captain did not do much better: he got £20 a month, "which didn't seem much for such a lonely position of responsibility".

Details like this, well-researched and deftly put, are packed into Newby's characteristically charming foreword and the captions to his pictures. They demonstrate how he loved every moment of his trip — well, almost every moment. Oddly enough, doing the washing-up for the entire crew using half a kerosene can of hot water per session was, it seems, "far preferable" to cleaning the lavatories. One doesn't imagine that the apprentices left much on their plates. Newby makes the point that one common feature among the young seamen was their constant hunger. So it is the ultimate quirk that *Moshulu* is now tied up in Philadelphia and converted to a floating restaurant.

ERIC NEWBY

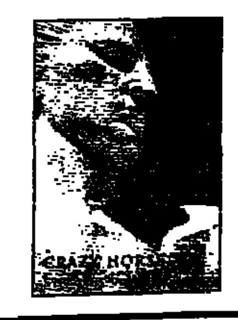
After 24 days at sea, the *Moshulu* rounded the northwest African coast — the man on the weather yard-arm is hauling out the head of the sail

A myth the size of a mountain



SCOTT BRADFIELD

CRAZY HORSE
By Larry McMurtry
Penguin, £12.99
ISBN 0 297 84242 0



While Crazy Horse (Ti-Sunka-Witco) figured prominently among the thousands of Native Americans who taught Custer the meaning of the term, "Little Bighorn", almost every other fact about him is open to debate. This is because he never once spoke for the public record, or allowed himself to become the sort of cigar-store savage who signed autographs at Wild West shows for a dollar a pop. As Larry McMurtry argues in this fine meditation on the most elusive figure in American history, Crazy Horse wasn't shy of attention. He just didn't like to spend too much time with the sorts of people who keep score.

Most verifiable facts about Crazy Horse were collected in interviews with elderly Sioux well into the 20th century and, as a result, almost everything historians know about him has to be qualified by that innocuous adverb, "probably". He was probably born a member of the Oglala wing of the Great Sioux nation in 1840, near what is now Bear Butte, South Dakota. He probably led the Sioux into some of their famous pre-Bighorn victories, such as the battles of the Bozeman and the Rosebud. And he was probably responsible for leading Captain William Fetterman and his troops beyond the safe perimeters of Fort Phil Kearney in December, 1866, where they were succinctly slaughtered.

Neither high-born nor self-congratulatory, Crazy Horse was the closest thing to a populist that the Sioux Nation ever possessed. As a youth, he displayed a keen talent for horses, and when he wasn't hunting buffalo, he was engaged in vision-quests, seeking instruction from the spirits he admired more than people. On one such mystic expedition, he was told to live the simple life, shun adornments and devote himself solely to the weakest members of his tribe. According to most accounts, he lived faithfully to these precepts for the rest of his life.



CORBIS

The enormous statue of Crazy Horse in South Dakota

Crazy Horse did not surrender to the white generals so much as to the white weather. And when he turned over his arms after the terrible winter of 1876-77, he learnt from experience that deal-making with Washington was neither his, nor his people's, best suit.

After negotiating for hunting privileges which were immediately revoked, he displeased his victors by refusing to betray his people, and eventually developed a following among the youngest warriors of his tribe. This popularity was noted not only by Washington, but by Sioux leaders as well, most of whom considered Crazy Horse a threat. As McMurtry sees it, Crazy Horse was disliked by politicians on both sides for not being sufficiently political. In the end, it cost him his life.

On September 6, 1877, Crazy Horse was slain by an unremarkable private named William Gentles while resisting efforts to incarcerate him. As should be expected from such a mythical life, nobody agrees on what happened that day, or has any idea where Crazy Horse's parents eventually disposed of his body.

Today, though, the world's largest sculpture is being dynamited into the Black Hills of South Dakota. It has taken more than half a century to complete and when it is finished it will depict not only the head of Crazy Horse, but also the only indisputable fact about him: he may not be clearly remembered, but he was definitely larger than life.

Nimble-fingered

When we speak of the Holocaust, the images summoned are mostly those of the concentration camp. Wladyslaw Szpilman's powerful memoir, *The Pianist* (Gollancz, £12.99; ISBN 0 575 06708 X) supplies a whole other iconography, that of the Warsaw ghetto. A Jewish pianist, he managed to survive the ghetto and outside it in Warsaw on the run.

The most dramatic aspect of Szpilman's story comes in the war's final days when he was discovered by a German officer. On learning that he was a pianist, Wilm Hosenfeld persuaded him to play the Chopin Nocturne in C sharp minor. Hosenfeld then showed him where to hide and brought him food.

One can see why the Polish authorities had Szpilman's book withdrawn soon after its publication in 1946. His account of the "good Poles" who hid him may have been ideologically acceptable, but that of a "good German" wasn't. Yet the Hosenfeld section of the book is the least interesting. Far more arresting are his tableaux of ghetto life — the lice so inescapable they even penetrated the bread; a German officer's casual defenestration of a dazed old man in the building opposite; the corpses who stare up at him as he makes his way home each night.

The ghetto remains for most of us an unfathomable place. Szpilman describes the torment of confinement. He's also an artful guide to the differences between the Jews in the ghetto — not the homogenous group of the Nazi imagination, but people whose prewar status was reproduced during the war. Szpilman observes them from one of the ghetto cafés where he plays. He also recounts the sadism of the Jewish police and the daring of the underground to which he belonged.

Once he's been spirited out of the ghetto, the book becomes a desperate chronicle of hunger, loneliness and pessimism. Looking out on a bombed landscape, he imagines himself the last person alive. Twice he's on the point of suicide when capture seems imminent. The third time he swallows sleeping-pills but awakes the next day.

For me, this book had an added poignancy. The Chopin Nocturne which saved Szpilman's life was the same one which saved my mother's, when she played it in Plazow concentration camp for Amon Goeth. What would Frédéric Chopin have made of that?

ANNE KARPF

Bargains of the week: abiding memories in Devon; a gourmet gathering in Guernsey, the art of Van Dyck in Antwerp



■ *A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices*

BRITISH ISLES

ABBA are making a big noise in London again with the opening this week of *Mamma Mia*, featuring many of the group's songs. Top seats together with Friday and Saturday night at a central four-star hotel, plus dinner with champagne, are on offer from Theatrebreak. The package costs £219, with discounts available over the next two Bank Holiday weekends. Details: 01904 679999.

■ THE hymn *Abide With Me* caused more excitement than Abba when sung at Wembley Cup Finals, and the Rev Henry Lyte, who wrote it, can be remembered at the Berry Head Hotel, his former home overlooking the sea at Brixham, Devon. Two nights' dinner, B&B costs £96 with Sunvil UK for the next two weekends. Details: 0181-232 9788.

■ THE boat comes free, for a day at least, on holidays with Norfolk Broads Direct until May 23. Stay in apartments beside the river at Wroxham from £111 for a short break (£164 for a week) and a motor launch will be provided for a day. Details: 01603 782207.

■ GOURMETS can enjoy Guernsey's eating experience competition this month on a visit to a winning hotel, which includes a five-course meal the first night, seven the next and a rest on the third. The three-night break with Guernsey Travel Service costs £229, with return flights from Gatwick. Details: 0181-891 6020.

■ CHESTER can be explored at a saving this month with Goldenrail, which has dinner, B&B at the Queens Hotel for £49. Details: 01904 638973.

■ COTTAGES in Rosscarbery, Co Cork, are available for two weeks at the price of one from April 17 with Irish Ferries Holidays. The offer cuts the price for a fortnight to £63 if six are sharing. Travel by sea or air can also be arranged. Details: 08705 170000.

EUROPE

TUSCANY can be enjoyed at special prices, before the politicians and superstars arrive for their summer holidays. Crystal Premier Italy has reduced the price for a week in selected villas from the next two Saturdays to £249, based on five sharing, but including car hire and return flights from Gatwick. Or you can take two weeks for the price of one. Details: 0181-390 5554.

■ PRAGUE discounts are available this month from Travellers Czech: three nights' B&B cost from £289, including return flights from Heathrow, Stansted and Manchester. Details: 01959 540700.

■ GREECE's quieter islands and resorts are on special offer next month from Greek Options. Villa and apartment holidays cost from £199, including return flights from Gatwick on the first three Sundays. Details: 0171-233 5233.

■ ORCHIDS, violets and white narcissi burst into flower in the Massif Central in May and will make a perfect backdrop to walks with Belle France, available all month. A circular tour, walking about 11 miles each day and enjoying four nights half-board in three hotels in the Cevennes, costs from £336, with a short Channel crossing for car and passengers. Details: 01797 223777.

■ VAN DYCK will be the next artist, after Monet's success in London, to draw huge crowds in Antwerp to the largest exhibition of his works, and Prospect Music and Art Tours is planning ahead to spare enthusiasts long queues. Two-night breaks in four-star hotels, a timed entry ticket and return Eurostar travel will be available from May 18 from £199. Details: 0171-486 5705.

■ MALTA for a week for £159 — and with half-board — is on offer from Lunn Poly, with a flight from Gatwick on April 16. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

■ FREE flights are a promotion from Orient Lines for selected Aegean holidays combining a cruise and city break. The offer cuts the price for a week to £735, including five nights' full board on a cruise to Ephesus, Mykonos and Rhodes and two nights in a first-class hotel in Istanbul. The first trip begins with a BA flight from Heathrow on May 18. Details: 0171-409 2500.

MARK MACKLENBURGH



In the heart of Prague, available on a three-night bargain

LONG HAUL

A RED SEA Discovery cruise, sailing on April 15, is available at huge discounts from Voyages of Discovery, even though the region is less troubled today than other parts of the world. Prices for outside cabins are reduced to £699 and for inside ones to £599, including full board and return flights to Crete for the ten-night trip to Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Details: 01293 433030.

■ A PARADISE isle at a dream price is on offer until June 30 from Thomas Cook Holidays. A fortnight at Langkawi Holiday Villas, Malaysia, costs £489, with return flights from Manchester, or £40 more from Heathrow. No meals included but because the Asian economies are still in trouble the cost of living is low. Details: 01733 418450.

■ FLORIDA without the kids comes cheap at the moment with Jetsave. Families are the Disney state's most frequent visitors so, with children back at school, prices have been cut. Best deals are from Cardiff with return flights on April 23 and car hire costing from £149. Deals for less than £200, with flights from Gatwick and Glasgow later this mon[th] also on offer and cu[...] accommodation can b[e ar]ranged. Details: 01342 3[...]

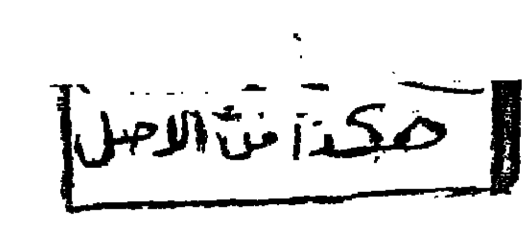
■ THAILAND two-cent[re hol]idays are on offer from [...] from Tradewinds, so [...] can sample the bustle of [Bang]kok for four nights [...] spending ten quieter o[...] Pattaya resort hotel. The [...] comes with flights from H[eath]row between May 1 and [...] Details: 0870-751 0004.

■ ZIMBABWE tours are [be]ing reduced by £225 b[y ...]waves until June 30, [...] the cost of a week's t[our to] £870. The package inclu[des re]turn Saturday flights fr[om] Gatwick, B&B in hotel [...] the tour taking in Ha[rare,] Kariba, Hwange and Vic[toria] Falls. Details: 0181-875 118[...]

● *All prices per person a[nd] based on two sharing a ro[om] unless otherwise stated.*



See *The Times* on Saturday for more fligh[t] bargains and last-minute holidays



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London. EC1R 0BQ

CREME DIRECT

PA to IT Director

Experienced and confident PA required for IT Director of dynamic worldwide media company located Sloane Square. Interest/experience in IT advantageous. Microsoft Office, shorthand, fast accurate typing and a cheerful manner would be an asset! Attractive package to include healthcare.

Please fax CV to
0171 581 5683
No Agencies.

SUPER SECRETARIES

SOUTH Kensington Property Office require an Administrator/Secretary. Lots of multi-tasks, must be able to work under pressure and take on responsibility. W/Windows Exp. £16,000 p.a. T.J. Office 0171 838 0023

FASHION Company, - W1 - require an Office Junior. Must be well spoken, well presented and very flexible in attitude. Would prefer some office experience with Windows & Excel knowledge £12-14K T.J. Office 0171 838 0023

BENTLEY & SKINNER Bond St Jewellers, PA to Director offering responsibility for P.R. Phone: 0171 629 0651.

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Please send hand written reply with CV to:
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London EC2M 5NT

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We have a number of Senior Secretarial/PA permanent vacancies, salaries ranging £20-30,000, located in the West End, City and Middlesex areas. We require 60 wpm, Word for Windows and Excel. PowerPoint would be advantageous.

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email: dalia@tpp.co.uk

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Nicely spoken, well-presented person sought for young professional co. Exp. ess. 65wpm + W4W. Age to mid-20's. £16-£18k.
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required ASAP for very interesting position. Must be computer literate with shorthand. References required. CV to Lynne Saunders, 12 Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, London NW1 4ND.

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Experienced secretary to work for busy TV Executive + team in successful production co. Involved role for proactive candidate, must be organised, good under pressure + an effective communicator. 60wpm typing, W4Ws. This is an interesting secretarial support role but not a stepping stone into production.

GROSVENOR BUREAU



Creme '99 takes place from 18th - 20th May at London, Olympia 2. ENTRANCE to the show is FREE. Seminars are excellent value at £15 per session. For the seminar and registration details call 01923 690662. For secretaries who want to get ahead. Get to Creme.

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You must have strategic vision with management and development skills to help stimulate innovation within the South East Region. You will be working closely with Health Authorities and Trusts in developing their strategic planning and organisation learning processes. You will act as an integral part of the policy, strategic and development framework.

To succeed in this role, you need substantial experience in strategic management and planning and development. With five to ten years' senior management experience at Board level, ideally within the Health Care sector, you will hold a health care related management or professional qualification. As well as demonstrating leadership you will have excellent communication skills with high interpersonal skills, particularly in influencing and negotiating.

The starting salary will be in the range £49,130 – £80,400, but more may be available for an exceptional candidate. The appointment will be made on permanent contract terms. Job shares and secondments will also be considered. Relocation expenses may be available.

For a job description and information pack please call our 24 hour Recruitment Line on 0171 725 5357 *quoting reference number* SE/10/99.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 23rd April 1999.

Provisional interview date: 12th May 1999.

As an equal opportunities employer, the Department of Health welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality. The Department operates flexible working patterns within a non-smoking environment.





NHS Executive
South East



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Appointment of Chairman to Caledonian MacBrayne Limited

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a Government owned company which is responsible for part of the operation of a network of approved ferry services, which in the opinion of the Secretary of State are necessary to maintain or improve economic or social conditions in the Highlands and Islands. The Board currently consists of a Chairman, 5 other appointed non-executive members and 4 executive members. The Chairman's vacancy will arise with effect from 1 August 1999. The period of appointment is at the discretion of Ministers but will not normally be for less than 3 years, with the possibility of renewal.

Applications are invited from people with the background and skills necessary to be a dynamic and effective Chairman of Caledonian MacBrayne. The successful candidate will have a broad knowledge of Highlands and Islands issues as well as transport issues. He or she should also possess sound analytical, presentational and communication skills, excellent chairmanship ability and the capacity to provide direction, strong leadership, inspiration and motivation for Caledonian MacBrayne Board and staff.

The Chairman will need to be able to devote 1½ days per week to the post. The post currently attracts a salary of £21,735 per annum.

If you think you have the necessary qualities and would like to be sent an application form and accompanying information package please contact:

Gerry Smith Esq, The Scottish Office Development Department, Area 2-E, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ. Tel: 0131 244 0844. Fax: 0131 244 0871.
E-mail: gerry.smith@scotland.gov.uk All correspondence will be treated strictly in confidence. Application forms should be submitted by 30 April 1999.

The Scottish Office is committed to the principles of equal opportunities and public appointments based on merit, independent assessment, openness and transparency of process.

Under the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998 this appointment will fall to be made by a member of the Scottish Executive.

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Few roles will give you as broad an overview of the retail financial services market as this. Fewer still can offer the scope to make such a key contribution to its development. That is why we are looking to appoint a consummate professional, possibly from a compliance background, who combines first class analytical, drafting, negotiation and presentation skills with the presence and managerial flair to take a large team through periods of significant change.

Someone, in short, who can lead from the top.

If that someone is you, please telephone 0171 269 6204 quoting reference GP412.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 26th April 1999.



FSA

Financial Services Authority

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A fully qualified accountant is needed for a leading media communications agency based in central London. The company is expanding quickly and requires somebody who is flexible, intelligent and charismatic. The successful candidate will report to the Managing Director and will be part of a core team that drives the business forward. The role requires a balance of strategic and operational expertise. Neither advertising nor media experience is a requirement. The successful candidate will however have to demonstrate successful management of all key financial processes.

For the successful candidate there will be a substantial basic salary, profit share and the normal executive benefits.

As part of the recruitment process, all short-listed candidates will be psychometrically profiled.

Male or female applicants should send their CV's to:

Robert Willoughby
Strategic Resource Solutions
6th Floor
Nicholson's House
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 1LD

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Director

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If you think you have the skills, knowledge and commitment, then contact the Richmond Fellowship's Consultants, HACAS Consulting at: United House, North Road, London N7 9DP.
Tel: 0171 609 9491 (24 hour), Fax: 0171 700 7599
e-mail: hacas@hacas.co.uk

For an informal chat, ask to speak to Derek Joseph or Sue Piper



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THE CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION (Lisbon)

Director of the U.K. Branch, London

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the *Foundation's United Kingdom Branch* in succession to the present Director Ben Whitaker who will be retiring in September 1999.

The Branch's work is organised around three main programmes for Arts, Education and Social Welfare, together with a special programme for Anglo-Portuguese Cultural Relations, in the UK and Ireland. Each of these four programmes is administered in detail by an assistant director. The candidate chosen is likely to have a substantial record of experience, leadership and achievement in one or more of the fields covered by the Foundation's main programmes, and sympathies which embrace the others. A knowledge of the Portuguese language would be an advantage though not essential for this post. The Foundation specialises in imaginative, innovative and cost-effective grant-making, which last year totalled some £2m. The appointment will be for five years in the first instance, which may possibly be extended by mutual agreement. Completed applications will be required by not later than 4th May 1999.

Persons interested in applying for this full-time post in central London should obtain the detailed job description which includes information about the Foundation and its work and about the salary and conditions of service, and which is available from the Bursar at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), 98 Portland Place, London W1N 4ET. Tel. No. 0171 636 5313 ext. 216. Fax No. 0171 636 3421

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Ref: MTPLC/W/2

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Ref: MTPLC/W/3

This role is pivotal to the success of our marketing strategy. A graduate with at least two years' marketing experience, you'll already have held a junior brand manager position. Commercially astute with strong interpersonal skills, you're ready to make your mark with a progressive, global company.

Based in Hertfordshire, both positions require positive, dynamic individuals with innovative flair and astute commercial abilities. Background is not important but some experience in FMCG environments would be a real advantage, as would a working knowledge of French.

The company offers genuine career opportunities and excellent benefits which will reflect your skills and abilities to influence the process of change within the organisation.

In return, you can look forward to excellent career development opportunities and early advancement in a world-class environment.

To apply, please write enclosing your CV to: Carl A Moffat, Human Resources Department, Michelin Tyre PLC, Campbell Road, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST4 4EY.

Please quote the appropriate reference number.

Replies must be received by 30 April 1999.

Michelin is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Sammons

HUMAN RESOURCE OPPORTUNITIES

based in Central London

HR Manager – Investment Bank — **£60 - £80,000**
To join a quality global institution. Ideally graduate educated and IPD qualified, this role calls for a proactive solutions based HR professional with extensive experience as an HR Manager in a similar City environment. Excellent benefits. Ref: 12262

HR Manager — **c£50,000**
Help reshape and develop the HR delivery in a prestigious Law practice. We seek a senior manager (probably graduate educated with IPD), to assume relationship responsibility for key client groups. Key involvement areas will include HR team management, manpower planning, strategy. Partner interaction, recruitment, appraisal process with some Learning & Development. Ref: 12187

Personnel Manager — **to £45,000**
This is a new appointment with a very substantial professional practice. Candidates must be of graduate calibre, IPD qualified and have at least 5 years successful Personnel delivery experience in a law firm or other professional practice environment. First class interpersonal, communication and people influencing skills are essential. Ref: 45949

HR Officers x2 — **£25 - £32,000**
To join leading City organisations. We seek graduate level individuals, GIPD or QBE, ideally with at least 3 years of solid experience as a Generalist in a busy, proactive HR environment, excellent PC skills and Employment Law knowledge. In both positions an across the board HR client support involvement will be expected. Ref: 12077

HR Analyst — **c£25,000**
Global Investment Bank requires a numerate individual with excellent Excel and Access skills. Key tasks will involve the maintenance and analysis of Global Headcount and Compensation information and report preparation, along with ongoing project based tasks. Excellent career development prospects. Ref: 12151

To discuss these and other HR opportunities, or to apply, please contact

Sammons HUMAN RESOURCES RECRUITMENT
POUPART HOUSE, 46 FISH STREET HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BR
Tel: 0171 293 7055 Fax: 0171 929 3858
email: hr@sammons.co.uk http://www.sammonsgroup.co.uk

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RAM is at the forefront of one of the most exciting, revolutionary and fastest growing markets – mobile information solutions. Backed by BellSouth, the world's seventh largest telecommunications company, we operate the UK's most advanced dedicated wireless data network. An impressive and growing portfolio of blue chip companies and major organisations utilise our services, systems and expertise to dramatically enhance their performance, efficiency and competitiveness.

We now seek two focussed Sales Professionals to join our highly progressive Business Team and build on their success. Armed with a successful track record in selling IT or Telecommunications services/products, you will develop effective Customer relationships and possess the tenacity to drive business through from conception to successful conclusion. RAM offers the best in pre/post sales support and excellent prospects in this lucrative market sector.

Ready to join the revolution? Call our retained Consultant, **Kevin Lamb** now on **01344 762616** for an informal discussion, or forward your resumé in confidence to him at:

Kestrel Network Sciences, Talbot House, High Street, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7AQ
Fax: 01344 762573
Email: klamb@kestrelnetwork.co.uk

KESTREL

ACCOUNT MANAGERS



Freshwater Policy Officer

ENGLISH NATURE

English Nature is the Government body which promotes the conservation of wildlife and natural features of England, employing over 700 people throughout the country.

Permanent appointment - Peterborough

English Nature is seeking an individual with drive and enthusiasm to develop and promote policies for wildlife conservation in the freshwater environment. The post will be part of a small team based in our national office in Peterborough. It will have a lead role in securing protection of rivers and lakes from agricultural diffuse pollution; manage a major partnership project on UK rivers; and be responsible for forging closer links with our 21 local teams and other national conservation bodies.

Qualifications: An honours degree and at least five years' experience in nature conservation or other policy-oriented career. Good communication skills and computer literacy are also required.

Salary: Salary range is £21,500 - £32,461. Starting salary is normally the minimum of the range, however more may be available for an exceptional candidate.

For further details and application form please contact Sandra Kennedy, Environmental Impacts Team, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA. Tel: 01733 455202.

The closing date for completed applications is **30 April 1999.**

Interviews will be held on **20 May 1999.**

We have a no smoking policy within English Nature.

English Nature is working towards Equal Opportunities, and welcomes applications from all members of society.

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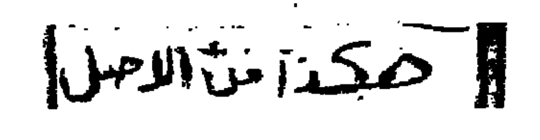
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You're a successful manager who will take this high profile, highly responsible role further. Shaping our business plan and recommending strategies for growth, you'll seize and cultivate opportunities to expand our client base with a variety of organisations. You'll take the initiative, working alongside other Help the Aged teams, including Communications, to maximise opportunities but never compromising our high standards of care for which you will be responsible. Above all, you'll build long-term, productive relationships, internally and externally, to improve our business processes and ensure we stay ahead of social and technological advances.

You're someone who is excited by challenge, with the people-management skills to drive change and be a positive, constructive influence in any team. If fact, you'll need an impressive managerial track record, with at least 5 years' business management and budgetary control experience, 2 of which have been spent in a senior role. You will also have knowledge of Response Centres, their services and technology or experience of delivering services. In our demanding environment, you'll need the flexibility to handle pressure with confidence. PC literacy, including word processing and spreadsheets, together with proven numeracy, relating to budgets and forecasting, is essential.

Send a letter of application together with your CV to the Human Resources Department, Help the Aged, St.James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE. It is anticipated that interviews will take place on the 5th and 7th May 1999. We are committed to equal opportunities and operate a non-smoking policy. Closing date for applications 23 April 1999. As a Charity we are only able to reply to those selected for interview. If you do not hear from us within 5 weeks, we regret that your application has not been successful on this occasion.

Business Analyst – Strategy Development

City — to £45,000 + Benefits

Linklaters is one of the world's leading law firms with a global network of offices in each of the world's major economies. We have recently joined with four leading law firms in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and Sweden to establish the leading international law practice for multi-jurisdictional advice.

To support this growth, Linklaters & Paines is seeking a high calibre Business Analyst to assist in the continuing development of firm and practice strategy as part of a small and cohesive central management team. The work will cover a wide range of activities associated with managing a major professional services firm, and will involve considerable responsibility from the outset.

The role:

- Reports to the Managing Partner and Director of Strategy.
- Performs analysis on a range of strategic, marketing, financial and organisational issues.
- Assists with the business planning process and the analysis of performance.
- Researches various business development opportunities.

The person:

- Will be educated to degree level (2.1 or above).
- Will have had two or three years post university experience gained ideally in one of the leading strategy consulting firms.
- Will have a strong analytical background, focused around either business strategy, finance or marketing.
- Will have good interpersonal skills, drive and the enthusiasm to work in a stimulating and enjoyable environment, covering a range of cross-functional issues.

Interested candidates should apply in writing, quoting reference 497595 and enclosing a comprehensive copy of their CV to David Trapnell at Michael Page, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN or fax on 0171 831 2612 or e-mail: davidtrapnell@michaelpage.com

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NOTTING HILL HOUSING TRUST

Assistant Finance Director

London W6 — Package to £53,418 + Benefits

A superb opportunity now exists at Notting Hill Housing Trust. The Trust manages over 14,000 homes, housing 40,000 people in the London area. The successful candidate will be working for one of the leading, progressive housing associations, committed to both your professional and personal development.

The Role

This challenging role will be reporting to the Group Director of Finance and Resources. Leading a team of dedicated professional finance managers in driving the financial performance of the group, you will influence the strategic development of the group, by assessing the viability of new business and identifying ways to improve existing business performance.

The Person

The successful candidate will be a qualified accountant, a good communicator with excellent leadership skills and have a significant track record of achievement at senior management level. You will be a commercial, entrepreneurial thinker with some practical experience of the capital markets, financial planning, preparing tenders and assessing new business initiatives.

For further information, contact our recruitment advisers, Hays Accountancy Personnel, at 14 Great Castle Street, London W1N 7AD quoting reference : MT/NH/03. Tel: 0171 436 5533. Fax: 0171 323 9752. E-mail: west-end.ps@hays-ap.co.uk. Closing date for the response to this post is 23rd April 1999.

Hays Accountancy Personnel
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Business Development Managers

Nationwide

1999 sees the launch of the world's first national digital mobile communications network dedicated to ... client is investing hundreds of millions of pounds and working closely with partners such as Nokia and ... build this unique network. Rolled out across Europe, they will be able to provide companies the seamless ... of high-speed mobile data transmission, internet/intranet access, one-to-one telephony and instant ... functionality previously unavailable on any existing single network. In short, they will revolutionise ... businesses communicate.

Managing sales cycles ranging from 1-6 months and longer, the ability to listen and understand ... essential. You must have strong presentation skills, drive, tenacity, a sixth sense for clients' needs and ... satisfy them.

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■ Transportation Distribution ■ Manufacturing ■ Construction ■ Government
■ Field Service ■ Airlines ■ Business Services

You may currently be involved selling products and services such as:
■ Facilities management ■ Disaster recovery
■ Outsourcing contracts ■ Capital Equipment
■ Office Equipment ■ PABXs ■ PCs ■ Software

For further information please contact Ben Atfield or one of his resourcing team on 0171 806 1472. Alternatively, send your CV with details of your current remuneration, quoting reference number BAST119 to Ben Atfield at McGregor Boyall Telecommunications, 114 Middlesex Street, London E1 7JH. Fax: 0171 377 0569. E-mail: dolphin@mcgregor-boyall.com

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GISSINGS

Pensions Actuaries

Range £60,000 - £100,000 inc.

Due to our success at acquiring new business, we are currently looking for qualified actuaries to join our busy employee benefits department. Successful candidates will hold a current Scheme Actuary certificate, and the role will be Actuarial Adviser to a portfolio of corporate clients.

You should be a team player with strong communication and negotiation skills, and have the enthusiasm and desire to succeed in a competitive environment.

Near Qualified Pensions Actuary

Range £40,000 - £50,000 inc.

If you are a part qualified actuary with four years' experience in a pensions consultancy environment, and would like the opportunity to establish yourself in an independent, successful company then we would like to hear from you.

You will have responsibility for monitoring and assisting other part qualified members of the actuarial team in the execution of their duties. Your actuarial studies will be actively supported by our professional team and, once qualified, you will be given consultancy responsibilities. You should therefore be client-focused with strong communication skills.

Human Resources Generalist

Range £35,000 - £47,000 inc.

Due to our continuing expansion, we are looking for an individual with excellent all round knowledge of Human Resource issues to join our professional team. The successful candidate may have experience in Recruitment, or Training and Development and be interested in the IPD qualification. The ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines is essential. Additonally the ideal candidate will have an interest in employment legislation and good IT skills.

Corporate Healthcare Adviser

Range £35,000 - £47,000 inc.

Due to our ongoing success in the Healthcare market, we are looking for a person with experience in healthcare consultancy, or private medical insurance, to join our professional team. To meet our requirements candidates should have the ability to deliver business presentations, be able to retain, service and develop existing clients, have good inter-personal skills and be an enthusiastic and dynamic team player.

Facilities Executive

Range £35,000 - £47,000 inc.

Due to continued expansion, we are looking for an individual with proven capabilities within an office-based administration environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of office administration on a daily basis, including project work and site maintenance. The ideal candidate will be able to prioritise their own and others workloads, be able to work to tight deadlines, and also possess strong IT skills. **Applications from individuals who have served in Her Majesty's Forces will be welcomed.**

Profund Specialist

Range £30,000 - £40,000 inc.

The opportunity has arisen for a professional to join our Profund system support team. The ideal candidate should have at least three years' experience in a Profund environment either as a user or in a system support role, a thorough knowledge of final salary and/or money purchase administration, strong analytical and organisational skills and a willingness to fully participate as part of an ambitious and professional team.

Our Flexible Benefits Package includes the option to have up to 60 days Annual Leave.

If you think you can rise to the challenge and are attracted to an environment that genuinely rewards real achievement, please apply in the strictest confidence to:

Don Brooks - Human Resources Executive, Gissings Consultancy Services Limited, Finsbury House, 23 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7UH. E-mail: BROOKSD@Gissings.co.uk

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

BUSINESS LINK

Business Link London Central is a successful and dynamic member of the national Business Link Network providing professional advice and support for small and medium sized businesses.

We are a highly motivated, proactive and client focused team and are looking to add a number of keen, energetic and innovative individuals to contribute to our continuing commitment to help businesses grow and prosper.

We recognise the need to invest in the development of our people to ensure that they can make the best possible use of their skills and expertise in pursuit of business excellence.

Do you have the necessary energy, enthusiasm and communication skills allied with a broad and practical business background to contribute positively to the range of opportunities on offer?

If so, send your CV and letter stating how you meet the requirements, quoting the relevant reference number to:

John Henderson, Quantum Enterprise Development, 2 Sidings Court, White Rose Way, Doncaster, DN4 5NU Tel: 01302 761222 Fax: 01302 761333 e-mail: qedhq@compuserve.com

Human Resources Manager (Ref No 90401)
Circa £35k + 15% performance bonus
As an experienced professional with full IPD membership and five years experience of HR management with experience of IiP and ISO9001 you will be expected to make a major contribution to the continuing success of BLLC. Using the Business Excellence Model as your framework you will influence business strategy and oversee all formal accreditation requirements as well as managing and co-ordinating all staff recruitment and development.

Business Adviser (Ref No 90402)
Circa £34k + 15% performance bonus
As a Business Adviser you will need to have in-depth business knowledge, professional qualifications and experience across several functions. You will work closely with some of the most dynamic businesses in the area, play a key role in the local business community and conduct detailed analyses and investigations to interpret current performance and support the development of our clients.

Finance Counsellor (Ref No 90403)
Circa £34k + 15% performance bonus
The Finance Counsellor will work with small and medium sized businesses to provide a full financial planning service to develop and implement sound financial principles to underpin their growth and development. You will use your financial and finance raising experience to enable our clients to pursue their business goals.

Quality Manager (Ref No 90404)
Circa £28k + 15% performance bonus
Reporting to the Human Resources Manager you will be expected to ensure that the BLLC team is supported by high quality processes and systems to underpin the quality of service to clients. Within the framework of the Business Excellence Model you will be expected to use your considerable ISO9001 experience to make a major contribution to manage the Quality System and to ensure that all formal accreditation requirements are met and exceeded.



We are committed to an Equal Opportunities Policy and actively encourage applications from all sections of the community

NATIONAL DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION
RETAIL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

LONDON — up to £25,000

Established for more than 60 years, the National Dairymen's Association represents the liquid milk industry in England and Wales. Its members comprise major dairy companies, over 100 processing dairies, some 2000 independent milk retailing businesses and franchisees. They are committed to the "milkman" and need to develop their doorstep services, which account for just over one third of all milk sold. The milkman also delivers hundreds of non-dairy products.

Role

Reporting to the Association's Director you will work closely with leading people in the industry to help Members maximise their doorstep business. You will become an essential source of advice on a wide range of issues affecting direct sales retailing and manage a series of initiatives to increase the industry's customers.

Candidate

A graduate with a minimum of two years experience in a business oriented culture you may have a marketing qualification or experience gained in the food/retailing sector. You must be an effective communicator, able to direct meetings, write with style to deadlines and be able to grasp the dynamics of this industry quickly.

If you are interested in this position please send your cv, in confidence, to Ms Emily Elkington, National Dairymen's Association, 19 Cornwall Terrace, London, NW1 4QP.

£60,000 plus Bonus

Small IMRO regulated Investment Management Firm urgently seeks an experienced (not less than 15 years) International Fixed Income Fund Manager with experience in credit analysis. He or she will have at least two years experience in dealing with a European client base and speak fluent German. Further requirements are a University degree, CFA, IMRO and IMC registration. Job is based in London but requires extensive travelling throughout Europe.

Please respond to box number 5771.

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CRG

PR & Communications Manager

Competitive Package — ***London***

Control Risks Group is an international business risk consultancy servicing over 3,500 multi-nationals via 16 offices worldwide. Its mission is to enable its clients to succeed in complex or hostile business environments. As part of its global business strategy it is looking to reposition Public Relations as part of the marketing mix and to capitalise on the pro-active and creative use of internal and external communications as a key to future success.

The Challenge

- To support the business development strategy, liaising with business managers to identify and communicate key corporate messages externally and around the global network
- To produce detailed and strategic communications plans
- To develop an international PR network
- To initiate and manage press campaigns to be mirrored worldwide
- To pro-actively yet creatively manage PR communication via a wide-range of tools including website, brochures, newsletters whilst maintaining strong client confidentiality ethos.

The Requirement

We are looking for an experienced PR professional (4+ years) with strong commercial focus and an interest in international affairs; a practical, common-sense approach; results orientated with a natural influencing style; excellent communication skills and experience of crisis management situations.



This is a unique challenge within a distinctive organisation. If you think you can make a major contribution to moving our unusual profile forward, please apply by sending CV with covering letter, stating current salary to Daire Farnan – Group Personnel Manager, Control Risks Group Limited, 83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW or e-mail to recruitment@control-risks.com.

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We're the company that's setting the pace in these fast-moving markets, and as part of Mars we're expanding our operations, including the development of a fourth manufacturing site in Mexico. We're also strengthening our highly motivated UK manufacturing team here at Winnersh, near Reading. As a result, we have further opportunities for bright engineering graduates with anything up to 3 years' industrial experience to join us. These are unique opportunities to contribute to the support and development of innovative manufacturing processes in a genuinely world-class environment where personal qualities are just as important as technical skills. Everyone is encouraged to contribute new ideas and fresh approaches, and you'll be no exception.

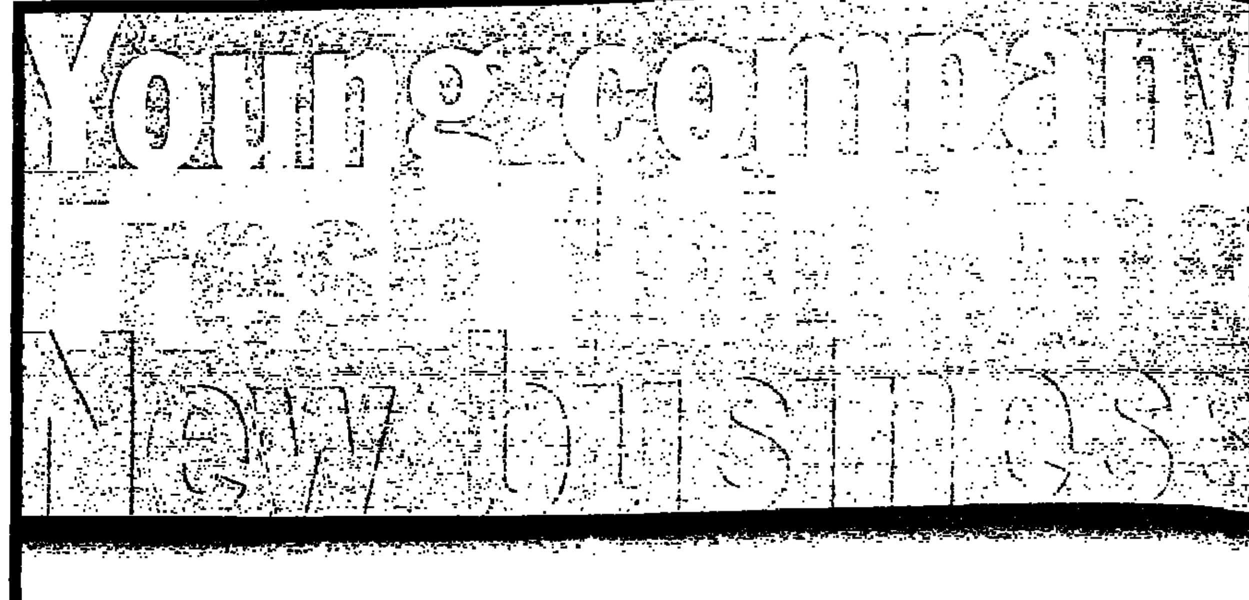
You should be an enthusiastic team-player with the drive and determination to challenge the status quo and enhance process and product performance. And since all Mars companies share an outstanding record for developing their people, there's no limit to what you could ultimately achieve. In addition to a competitive salary, you'll qualify for a valuable package of non-contributory benefits including pension, health care and life assurance schemes.

So if you've got what it takes to make the most of these outstanding long-term career opportunities, contact us now. To obtain further information and a personal data form which you can add to your cv, please call our 24-hour answerphone on 01189 446941, quoting ref: LSE.

We are an equal-opportunity employer.



MARS ELECTRONICS INTERNATIONAL



Front Office Account Manager

Haywards Heath/Crawley — **£18,000 - £22,000 + benefits**

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You will liaise with your customers and the operational team to ensure the contract terms are met. Our contracts are typically long-term and you will need to proactively evolve them, constantly challenging established working methods.

A customer-focused and business aware graduate, you will take report writing and statistical analysis in your stride. With a proven record in account management and relationship building, you will be a natural enthusiast. We have some of the biggest accounts in the industry, so attention to detail is paramount and an understanding of legal contract terms would be a distinct advantage. There will be a certain amount of travel involved, so a valid driving licence is essential.

This is a real chance to make your mark in a rapidly expanding industry. Please send a full CV and covering letter to Julie Moore, Personnel Manager, MeterPoint, Russell Way, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 1UL. Closing date: 15th April 1999.

Meterpoint is a division of SEEBOARD plc.

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We're looking for people with management qualities and those who have the desire to fulfil a burning ambition to become a confident and successful professional – the one you have always believed existed in you.

Foxtons provide a unique environment in which to progress. For the correct individuals, personal development will be extreme and focused wholly around long term career progression within the organisation. In addition, leadership qualities, ambition, drive, commitment and a personality that thrives in a results driven and pressurised environment are essential.

Foxtons is a progressive company where excellence and effort are properly rewarded. We are not concerned with your past or present experience – we are looking for the personality with the desire, determination and drive to succeed.

If you are interested in working for one of London's most forward-thinking companies then call 0171 973 2048 or fax your CV to 0171 973 2023 Ref LPM. Alternatively send your CV to Foxtons 92 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EJ.
Applicants will ideally be aged 22-30 years.



Foxtons — People, not property

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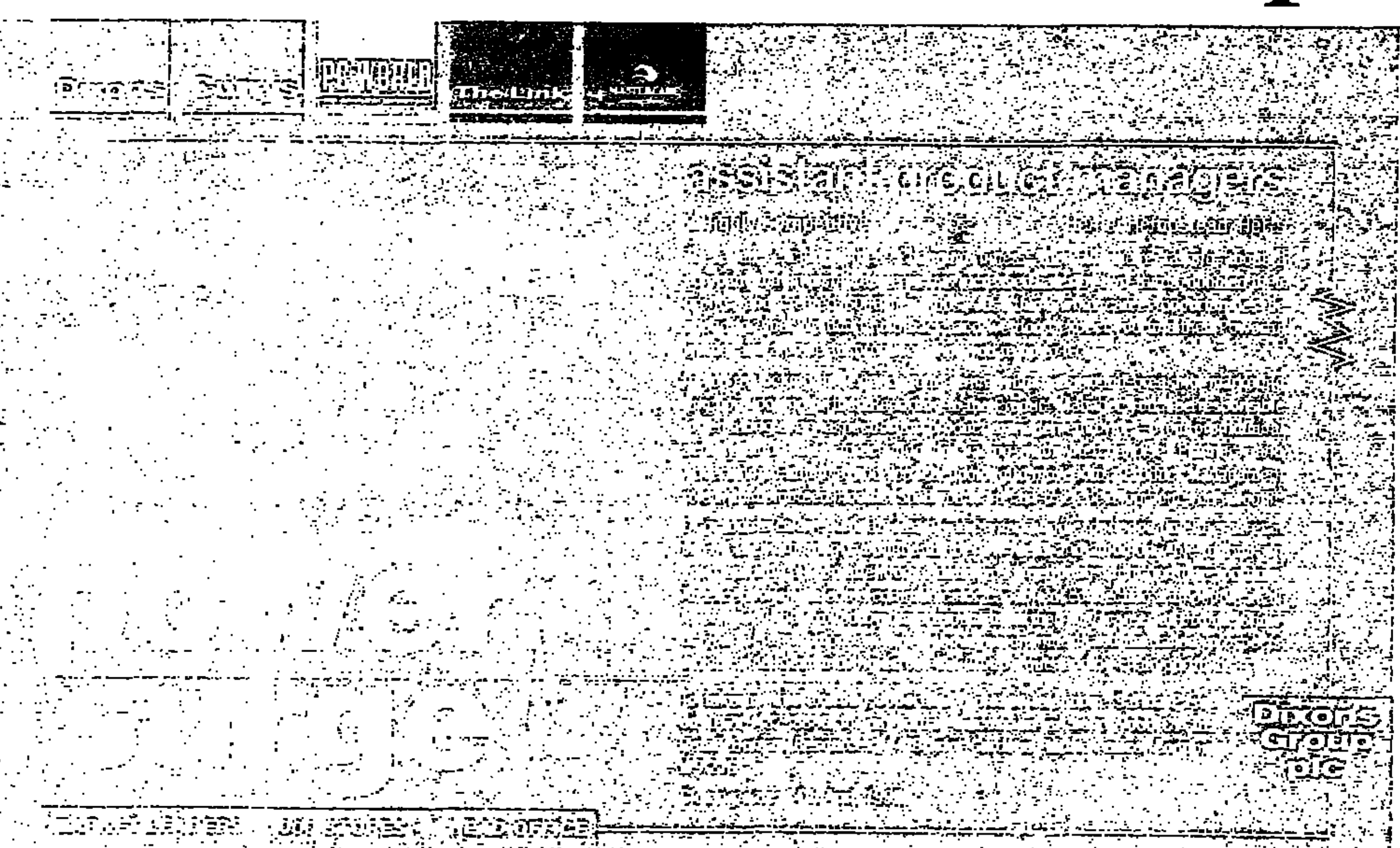
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One of the leading media groups in the country, we give our customers access to nearly 100% of the entire population. Effectively. And at the point when they are looking to buy.

Quite a message - and one that's well worth broadcasting.

Always fancied yourself as a newscaster? Here's your chance. Your audience is those wonderful people who work in ad agencies - just the people whose clients need the kind of exposure you can give them. As well as developing new revenue opportunities, you'll work closely with marketing teams to build effective programmes, put in place sales development plans and ultimately, win the confidence and credibility of advertising, media planning and marketing professionals right across the country.

Coming from either a media, marketing or agency background yourself, you have a proven track record in a sales/new business role, ideally supported by a marketing qualification (CIM or similar). A credible and proven presenter (to Board level), you'll combine first-class written and verbal communication skills with excellent relationship building ability.

Succeed, and you can look forward to a first class benefits package which includes generous salary and bonus, fully expensed car, free life assurance, plus health and pension schemes. Naturally, you can also look forward to the kind of long term career opportunities that can only come from a market leading organisation like ours.

If you have what it takes to broadcast our message, please call 01753 516091 (24 hour answerphone) for an application pack. Alternatively write enclosing full CV and salary details to: Karon Little, Personnel Manager, Yellow Pages Sales Limited, Directories House, 50 Wellington Street, Slough SL1 1YL.

For more information on Yellow Pages Sales Limited, please visit our microsite at http://www.monster.co.uk



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Project Officer

Graduate Development Programme

£18 - 22k + benefits

Due to the dynamic growth of the Dixons Group, the newly created Project Management team are looking to recruit a number of high calibre graduates into Project Office roles based at Hemel Hempstead. The team is involved in key business change projects across the group and you would be given the opportunity to gain exposure to both the decision making and the change management processes.

Project Officers will be responsible for:

- Liaison with business managers to set up, maintain and update project plans.
- Identifying and communicating the progress of project tasks to senior business managers.
- Analysing the causes of project slippage and recommending solutions to correct those problems.
- Process mapping.
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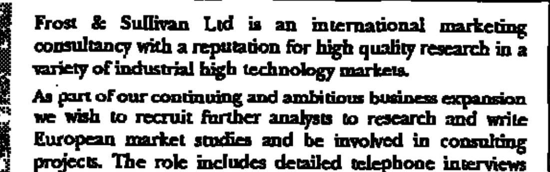
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RACING: LAST YEAR'S WINNER PREFERRED TO GO BALLISTIC

Nicholson gives Cup vote to Escartefigue

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

NOT so long ago, Aintree in April was all about one race, one enduring institution. Its supporting events were unworthy, incongruously lightweight. Now, while the Grand National maintains its unique ability to stop the country, it attracts the finest company, and there is evidence aplenty when the 1999 meeting begins today.

Later this week, the likes of Barton, Call Equiname and Istabraq will have the chance to revisit their Cheltenham glories. Today, it is the turn of Martin Pipe's two emphatic Festival winners, Majadou and Hors La Loi III, of Paul Nicholls' maiden Cheltenham winner, Flagship Uberalles, and of Go Ballistic, the horse who so nearly caused a Gold Cup sensation.

Come 3.45pm on Saturday, the National will command all hearts and minds, just the same as ever. Bankruptcy could not douse the obsession, nor bomb threats, protest marchers or embarrassing false starts. Even on the most chaotic sporting weekend of the year, racing has its guaranteed 15 minutes of fame. But in the meantime, Aintree provides a series of estimable races, a second chance for many to crown their jumping season.

It is not like Cheltenham and never can be. The terrain, the surroundings, the atmosphere are all utterly different. Aintree has no sense of the moneyed shires. Instead, it has the feel of a city letting its hair down and, for the next three days, the place will resound to office outings, with more sharp suits and glamorously inappropriate skirts and heels than country tweeds.

David Nicholson may be in the minority in the dress sense but he has an unshakeable affinity with this spruced-up old relic of a racecourse and, for a deeply superstitious man, it has nothing to do with past success. Nicholson has not won the National, either as a jockey or a trainer, but he travels this year with perhaps his best chance and will be represented on Saturday by Call It A Day and Baronet.

Nicholson, for whom Cheltenham is annually a 'home match' and Aintree a bag-packing adventure, does have an enviable record in the support races. He recalls training a double on the Flat in 1970, when Liverpool was still a mixed affair, and, only two seasons ago, he saddled six of the first 15 winners at the meeting.

Barton Bank, now retired, won the Martell Cup that April and, 12 months ago, the corresponding race was taken by Nicholson's progressive novice, Escartefigue. Today, Nicholson bids for his hat-trick in this feature event and with two of the field of five trained at his Jackdaws Castle yard, he has every chance.

The Martell Cup is an authentic Gold Cup consolation race, with £65,000 added, yet it has failed to attract more than eight runners in any of the past ten seasons. "The Irish tend to wait for Punchestown with their top chasers nowadays," Nicholson said, "and a lot of horses have a hard race at Cheltenham and this comes just too soon. But my two came out of the Gold Cup in good form."

The Cheltenham race, in which Escartefigue was a disappointing seventh while his stablemate narrowly lost first place to See More Business, would suggest Go Ballistic today, but Nicholson favours last year's winner. "I think around Aintree he is my better hope. He raced too freely in the blinkers at Cheltenham and won't wear them again. He has won at the meeting for the past two years and I see no reason why he shouldn't win again."

If a reason does present itself, it could just be the rapid improvement of Majadou. Pipe considered this horse his Cheltenham banker and he won the Mildmay of Flete Chase in appropriate fashion. That, though, was a handicap over five furlongs shorter than today's trip and even with a 9lb concession as a five-year-old, he confronts a huge task.

Hors La Loi III, returning to his age-group, is far more likely to give Pipe a first-day winner — and another essential boost in his quest for the trainers' title — in the Glenlivet Anniversary Novices' Hurdle.

□ Ground conditions on the Martell Grand National course remain good to soft, soft in places after 2mm of rain fell on the track on Tuesday night.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



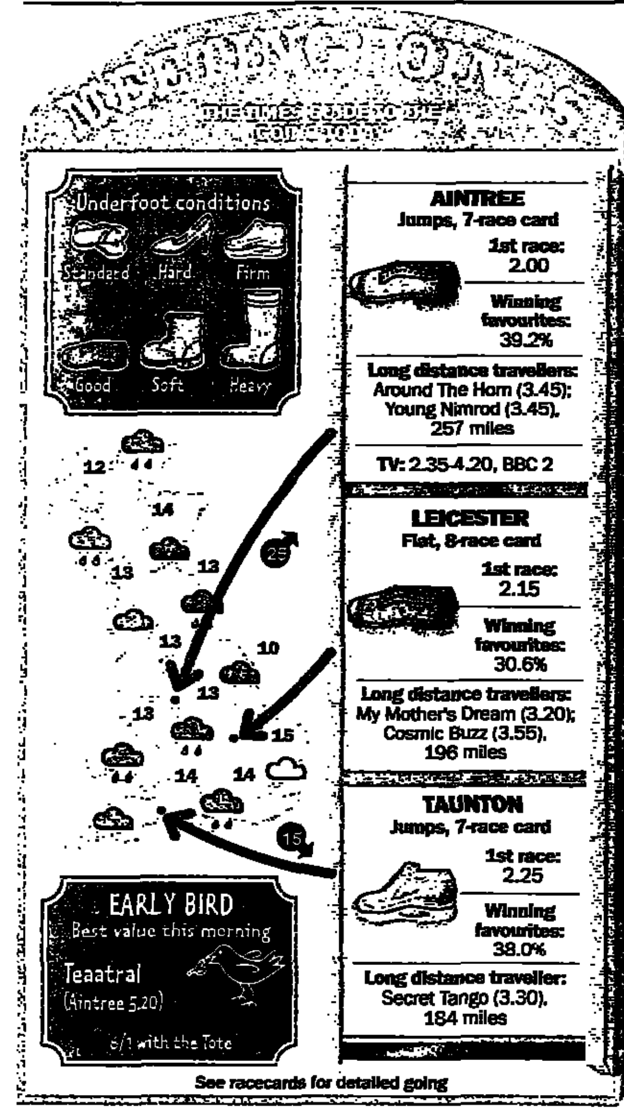
Wise King clears the last on the way to a controversial victory at Ascot yesterday

Punters wise after the event

LIFE is hard enough for punters at the best of times, but those who popped into the betting shop at lunchtime yesterday for a flutter on the Allied Irish Bank Handicap Chase at Ascot never had a prayer (Chris McGrath writes). Told that Wise King would not even start the race, they were horrified to see him finish it in first place. It proved a farce sufficient to melt even the hearts of bookmakers.

Between 12.23 and 1.15 pm Satellite Information Services (SIS), responsible for transmitting racecourse pictures and information to the shops, had laboured under the illusion that Wise King was a non-runner. Bookmakers duly deleted him from their betting and posted revised prices until apprised of the SIS mix-up. On bets struck during that period, all the leading firms decided to pay out on both Wise King and the horse he beat into second, Northern Starlight. Chief's Song, fourth, was promoted for each-way purposes but nothing could be done for Placepot punters.

The bookmakers' concession was a charitable one, as it effectively transformed a Tony McCoy treble into a four-timer. The most notable of his winners was Galant Moss in the Grosvenor Casinos Long Distance Hurdle.



See racecards for detailed going



AINTREE

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 Piped Aboard
2.35 Escartefigue
3.10 Dawn Leader
3.45 Gale Toi
4.20 Afarad
4.50 Society Brief
5.20 Wisley Wonder (nb)

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.10 FLAGSHIP UBERALLES.

Carl Evans: 3.45 Elegant Lord.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 BARTON AND GUESTIER TOP NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade II: £20,850: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

101 12-112 JOE MAC 23 (D,S) (J McManus) C Roche (Ire) 5-11-8 ... C O'Dwyer 104
102 1F511 GRECIAN DART 103 (D,G,S) (Lord Wolverton) N Henderson 7-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 129
103 -F5110 SIKANDER A AZAM 68 (BF,CD,G,S) (Lord Daresbury) C Grant 6-11-3 N Williamson 103
104 2113 ARCTIC FANCY 23 (S) (Cool Customers) J G Smyth-Osbourne 6-11-0 W Marston 100
105 521 BASMAN 28 (T,D,S) (Nelson, Edmondson & Partners) B Smart 5-11-0 C Llewellyn [illegible]
106 6141 BRILLIANT STAR 35 (D,S) (T G K Construction Ltd) S Brookshaw 7-11-0 A Dobbin 83
107 4/1112 LORD LAMB 12F (BF,D,F,G,S) (A Sharratt) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 Mr A Dempsey 123
108 111201 HEART 33 (D,S) (C & S Brasher) Miss H Knight 6-10-9 ... D Gallagher 119
109 150 PIPED ABOARD 21 (V,D,S) (Mr & Mrs M B Jones) M Pipe 4-10-8 ... A P McCoy 98

BETTING: 13-8 Joe Mac, 5-1 Lord Lamb, Arctic Fancy, Grecian Dart, 7-1 Basman, 12-1 Piped Aboard, 25-1 others.

1998: FATALISTE 4-10-12 A P McCoy (7-2 jt fav) M Pipe 10 ran

JOE MAC has to concede weight all round with an 8lb penalty for winning a Class A race but can prove equal to the task. A high-class bumper horse, he has taken well to hurdling this season, winning twice before finishing an excellent 17l second to Hors La Loi III in a strong-looking renewal of the Supreme Novices' Hurdle (2m 110yd) at Cheltenham. Arctic Fancy, 7l behind in third there and now 8lb better off, is strictly weighted to finish upsides the selection but was showing much-improved form that day and it remains to be seen whether he can repeat the effort. Piped Aboard is another who was seen in a favourable light at the Festival when, on his first start for 4½ months, he appeared to step up on earlier efforts in finishing under 24l ninth of 23 to Katarino in the Triumph Hurdle (2m 1f). He may yet do better still and Martin Pipe saddled the winner of this last year. Lord Lamb should be spot on after an outing on the Flat 12 days ago. His earlier second to Major Sponsor at Newcastle is useful form but he may need farther than two miles to fulfil his potential. Grecian Dart, absent since scrambling home from Jungli at Kempton (2m) on Boxing Day, looks best of the rest.

2.35 MARTELL CUP CHASE (Grade II: £38,275: 3m 1f) (5) — BBC2

201 341115 DR LEUNT 21 (BF,G,S) (P Emery) P Hobbs 8-11-5 ... R Dunwoody 158
202 423220 ESCARTEFIGUE 21 (CD,G,S) (D Mercer) D Nicholson 7-11-5 ... R Johnson 137
203 8-5P22 GO BALLISTIC 21 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs B Lockhart) D Nicholson 10-11-5 ... A Dobbin [illegible]
204 -12644 MACGEORGE 23 (F,G,S) (Mr & Mrs J Watson) R Lee 9-11-5 ... A Maguire 142
205 0-1111 MAJADOU 22 (G,S) (C, B & R Batterham) M Pipe 5-10-10 ... A P McCoy 144

BETTING: 13-8 Majadou, 2-1 Go Ballistic, 5-2 Escartefigue, 8-1 Dr Leunt, 14-1 Macgeorge.

1998: ESCARTEFIGUE 6-11-13 R Johnson (11-2) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM ANALYSIS

GO BALLISTIC hinted that he was back to his best when giving Cyfor Malta a scare in the Pillar Chase at Cheltenham in January and confirmed that when making See More Business pull out all the stops in the Cheltenham Gold Cup last month. He jumped particularly fluently that day (can ignore the odd fence) and deserves to gain compensation. Escartefigue, his stablemate, won this race in impressive fashion last year but the ground, which was soft 12 months ago, will not be so testing today. Moreover, he arrives here on the back of a poor run in the Gold Cup (may have resented being fitted with blinkers) and has had a busy campaign. Martin Pipe described Majadou as his Cheltenham banker and he did not disappoint — romping away with the Mildmay Of Flete Chase (2½ miles). He is upped in class and distance but is feared most. Macgeorge, 9l fourth to Betty's Boy at Cheltenham latest, and Dr Leunt, winner of the Racing Post Chase at Kempton in February, are both useful handicappers but look up against it on these terms.

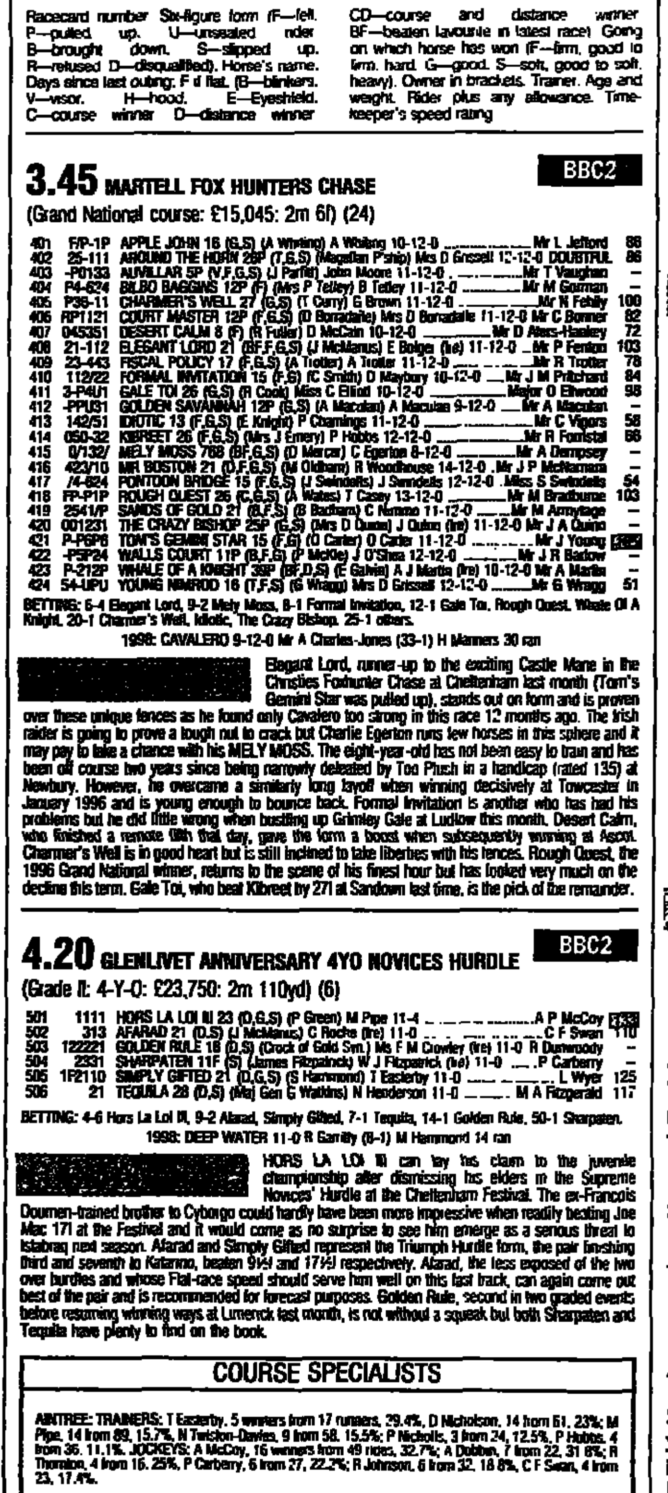
3.10 SANDEMAN MAGHULL NOVICES CHASE — BBC2
(Grade I: £32,725: 2m) (7)

301 244U12 CIRCUS STAR 9 (D,G,S) (Ringmasters) D Nicholson 6-11-4 ... R Johnson 115
302 221-31 CLIFTON BEAT 12 (D,F,G,S) (M St Quinton) P Hobbs 8-11-4 ... R Dunwoody 115
303 112321 DAMZA 5 (V,T,D,F,S) (N Mason) N Mason 7-11-4 ... R Guest 106
304 32-121 DAWN LEADER 48 (D,F,G,S) (Bonusprint) J Old 8-11-4 ... T J Murphy 137
305 10044- GRIMES 344 (D,F,G,S) (J McManus) C Roche (Ire) 6-11-4 ... C O'Dwyer –
306 212111 FLAGSHIP UBERALLES 23 (D,G,S) (E Gotner) P Nicholls 5-10-11 ... J Tizzard [illegible]
307 -15122 TRESOR DE MAI 23 (B,D,G,S) (J Moran) M Pipe 5-10-11 ... A P McCoy 133

BETTING: 6-4 Flagship Uberalles, 11-4 Tresor De Mai, 3-1 Dawn Leader, 6-1 Grimes, 12-1 Clifton Beat, 25-1 others.

1998: DIRECT ROUTE 7-11-4 P Carberry (9-2) J Howard Johnson 6 ran

The Arkle Chase one-two, Flagship Uberalles and Tresor De Mai, are likely to be all the rage but preference is for DAWN LEADER (nap) whose connections resisted the temptation to run at Cheltenham in order to peak today. An excellent second in the Seagram Top Novices' Hurdle a year ago, Dawn Leader has taken well to chasing this term and was particularly impressive when beating Better Offer by a comfortable 15 lengths at Sandown (2m 4f) on his latest start. Flagship Uberalles gained a head verdict over Tresor De Mai (received 4lb) at Warwick before confirming his superiority over that rival with a 2½l victory at Cheltenham. He may again fare the better of the pair but there is obviously little to choose between the two. Circus Star has not always appeared the most genuine of performers but has done nothing wrong of late, most recently at Sandown (2m) finishing 1¾l second to Dines, while though Grimes is thrown in at the deep end on his chase bow, he was not far shy of the best when on song over hurdles and cannot be ruled out on his belated return.



READING THE RACECARD

13 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F—fell. P—pulled up. U—unseated rider. B—brought down. S—slipped up. R—refused. D—disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B—blinkers. V—visor. H—hood. E—Eyeshield. C—course winner. D—distance winner. CD—course and distance winner. BF—beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F—firm, good to firm, hard. G—good. S—soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.45 MARTELL FOX HUNTERS CHASE — BBC2
(Grand National course: £15,045: 2m 6f) (24)

401 F/P-1P APPLE JOHN 16 (G,S) (A Whiting) A Whiting 10-12-0 ... Mr L Jefford 86
402 25-111 AROUND THE HORN 28P (T,G,S) (Magellan P'ship) Mrs D Grissell 12-12-0 DOUBTFUL 86
403 -P0133 AUVILLAR 5P (V,F,G,S) (J Parfitt) John Moore 11-12-0 ... Mr T Vaughan –
404 P4-624 BILBO BAGGINS 12P (F) (Mrs P Tetley) B Tetley 11-12-0 ... Mr M Gorman –
405 P35-11 CHARMER'S WELL 27 (G,S) (T Curry) G Brown 11-12-0 ... Mr N Fehily 100
406 RP1121 COURT MASTER 12P (F,G,S) (D Borradaile) Mrs D Borradaile 11-12-0 Mr C Bonner 82
407 045351 DESERT CALM 8 (F) (R Fuller) D McCain 10-12-0 ... Mr D Alers-Hankey 72
408 21-112 ELEGANT LORD 21 (BF,F,G,S) (J McManus) E Bolger (Ire) 11-12-0 ... Mr P Fenton 103
409 23-443 FISCAL POLICY 17 (F,G,S) (A Trotter) A Trotter 11-12-0 ... Mr R Trotter 78
410 112/22 FORMAL INVITATION 15 (F,G) (C Smith) D Maybury 10-12-0 ... Mr J M Pritchard 84
411 3-P4U1 GALE TOI 26 (G,S) (R Cook) Miss C Elliot 10-12-0 ... Major O Ellwood 98
412 -PPUS1 GOLDEN SAVANNAH 12P (G,S) (A Maculan) A Maculan 9-12-0 ... Mr A Maculan –
413 142/51 IDIOTIC 13 (F,G,S) (E Knight) P Chamings 11-12-0 ... Mr C Vigors 58
414 050-32 KIBREET 26 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Emery) P Hobbs 12-12-0 ... Mr R Forristal 66
415 0/132/ MELY MOSS 768 (BF,G,S) (D Mercer) C Egerton 8-12-0 ... Mr A Dempsey –
416 423/10 MR BOSTON 21 (D,F,G,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 14-12-0 ... Mr J P McNamara –
417 /4-624 PONTOON BRIDGE 15 (F,G,S) (J Swindells) J Swindells 12-12-0 ... Miss S Swindells 54
418 FP-P1P ROUGH QUEST 26 (C,G,S) (A Wates) T Casey 13-12-0 ... Mr M Bradburne 103
419 2541/P SANDS OF GOLD 21 (B,F,S) (B Badham) C Nimmo 11-12-0 ... Mr M Armytage –
420 001231 THE CRAZY BISHOP 25P (G,S) (Mrs D Quinn) J Quinn (Ire) 11-12-0 Mr J A Quinn –
421 P-P6P6 TOM'S GEMINI STAR 15 (F,G) (O Carter) O Carter 11-12-0 ... Mr J Young [illegible]
422 -P5P24 WALLS COURT 11P (B,F,G) (P McKie) J O'Shea 12-12-0 ... Mr J R Barlow –
423 P-212P WHALE OF A KNIGHT 39P (BF,D,S) (E Galvin) A J Martin (Ire) 10-12-0 Mr A Martin –
424 54-UPU YOUNG NIMROD 16 (T,F,S) (G Wragg) Mrs D Grissell 12-12-0 ... Mr G Wragg 51

BETTING: 6-4 Elegant Lord, 9-2 Mely Moss, 8-1 Formal Invitation, 12-1 Gale Toi, Rough Quest, Whale Of A Knight, 20-1 Charmer's Well, Idiotic, The Crazy Bishop, 25-1 others.

1998: CAVALERO 9-12-0 Mr A Charles-Jones (33-1) H Manners 30 ran

Elegant Lord, runner-up to the exciting Castle Mane in the Christies Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham last month (Tom's Gemini Star was pulled up), stands out on form and is proven over these unique fences as he found only Cavalero too strong in this race 12 months ago. The Irish raider is going to prove a tough nut to crack but Charlie Egerton runs few horses in this sphere and it may pay to take a chance with his MELY MOSS. The eight-year-old has not been easy to train and has been off course two years since being narrowly defeated by Too Plush in a handicap (rated 135) at Newbury. However, he overcame a similarly long layoff when winning decisively at Towcester in January 1996 and is young enough to bounce back. Formal Invitation is another who has had his problems but he did little wrong when bustling up Grimley Gale at Ludlow this month. Desert Calm, who finished a remote 6th that day, gave the form a boost when subsequently winning at Ascot. Charmer's Well is in good heart but is still inclined to take liberties with his fences. Rough Quest, the 1996 Grand National winner, returns to the scene of his finest hour but has looked very much on the decline this term. Gale Toi, who beat Kibreet by 27l at Sandown last time, is the pick of the remainder.

4.20 GLENLIVET ANNIVERSARY 4YO NOVICES HURDLE — BBC2
(Grade II: 4-Y-O: £23,750: 2m 110yd) (6)

501 1111 HORS LA LOI III 23 (D,G,S) (P Green) M Pipe 11-4 ... A P McCoy [illegible]
502 313 AFARAD 21 (D,S) (J McManus) C Roche (Ire) 11-0 ... C F Swan 110
503 122221 GOLDEN RULE 18 (D,S) (Crock of Gold Syn.) Ms F M Crowley (Ire) 11-0 R Dunwoody –
504 2331 SHARPATEN 11F (S) (James Fitzpatrick) W J Fitzpatrick (Ire) 11-0 ... P Carberry –
505 1F2110 SIMPLY GIFTED 21 (D,G,S) (S Hammond) T Easterby 11-0 ... L Wyer 125
506 21 TEQUILA 28 (D,S) (Maj Gen G Watkins) N Henderson 11-0 ... M A Fitzgerald 117

BETTING: 4-6 Hors La Loi III, 9-2 Afarad, Simply Gifted, 7-1 Tequila, 14-1 Golden Rule, 50-1 Sharpaten.

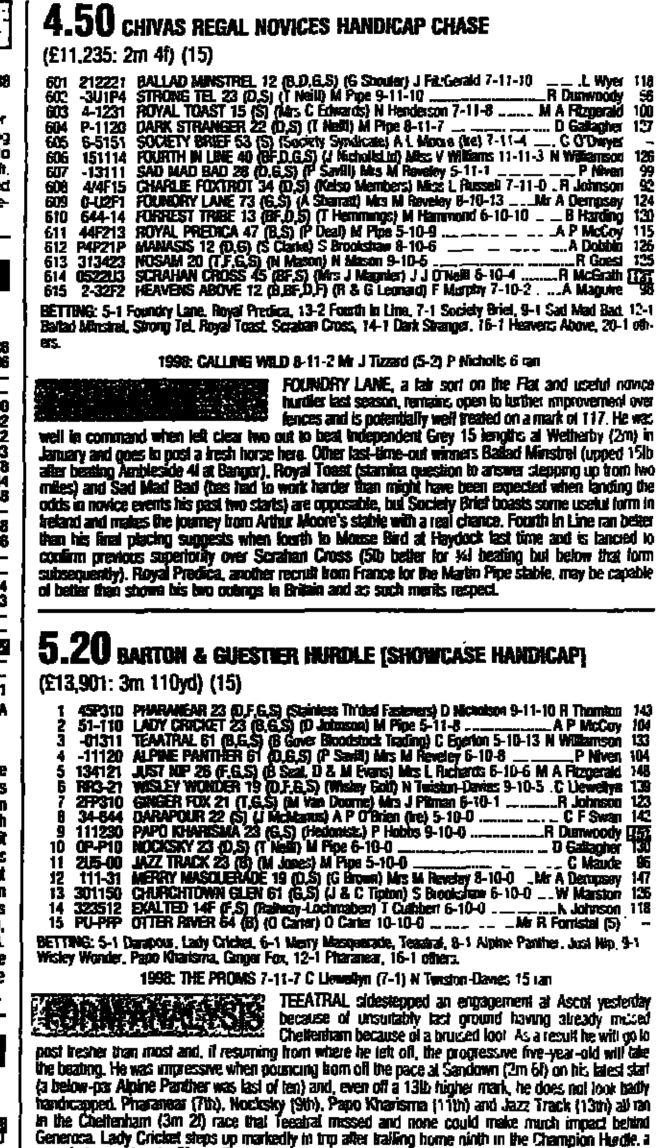
1998: DEEP WATER 11-0 R Garritty (8-1) M Hammond 14 ran

HORS LA LOI III can lay his claim to the juvenile championship after dismissing his elders in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. The ex-Francois Doumen-trained brother to Cyborgo could hardly have been more impressive when readily beating Joe Mac 17l at the Festival and it would come as no surprise to see him emerge as a serious threat to Istabraq next season. Afarad and Simply Gifted represent the Triumph Hurdle form, the pair finishing third and seventh to Katarino, beaten 9½l and 17½l respectively. Afarad, the less exposed of the two over hurdles and whose Flat-race speed should serve him well on this fast track, can again come out best of the pair and is recommended for forecast purposes. Golden Rule, second in two graded events before resuming winning ways at Limerick last month, is not without a squeak but both Sharpaten and Tequila have plenty to find on the book.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

AINTREE: TRAINERS: T Easterby, 5 winners from 17 runners, 29.4%; D Nicholson, 14 from 61, 23%; M Pipe, 14 from 89, 15.7%; N Twiston-Davies, 9 from 58, 15.5%; P Nicholls, 3 from 24, 12.5%; P Hobbs, 4 from 36, 11.1%. JOCKEYS: A McCoy, 16 winners from 49 rides, 32.7%; A Dobbin, 7 from 22, 31.8%; R Thornton, 4 from 16, 25%; P Carberry, 6 from 27, 22.2%; R Johnson, 6 from 32, 18.8%; C F Swan, 4 from 23, 17.4%.

LEICESTER: TRAINERS: B Hanbury, 7 winners from 24 runners, 29.2%; H Cecil, 16 from 62, 25.8%; P Chapple-Hyam, 3 from 14, 21.4%; J Dunlop, 24 from 130, 18.5%; B Hills, 12 from 66, 18.2%; J Gosden, 10 from 61, 16.4%; J L Harris, 8 from 51, 15.7%. JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery, 27 winners from 129 rides, 20.9%; M Roberts, 13 from 65, 20.0%; K Fallon, 19 from 120, 15.8%; J Weaver, 8 from 54, 14.8%; W J O'Connor, 5 from 34, 14.7%; R Hills, 11 from 80, 13.8%; J Fortune, 8 from 61, 13.1%.



4.50 CHIVAS REGAL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£11,235: 2m 4f) (15)

601 212221 BALLAD MINSTREL 12 (B,D,G,S) (G Shouler) J FitzGerald 7-11-10 ... L Wyer 118
602 -3U1P4 STRONG TEL 23 (D,S) (T Neill) M Pipe 9-11-10 ... R Dunwoody 56
603 4-1231 ROYAL TOAST 15 (S) (Mrs C Edwards) N Henderson 7-11-8 ... M A Fitzgerald 100
604 P-1120 DARK STRANGER 22 (D,S) (T Neill) M Pipe 8-11-7 ... D Gallagher 137
605 6-5151 SOCIETY BRIEF 53 (S) (Society Syndicate) A L Moore (Ire) 7-11-4 ... C O'Dwyer –
606 151114 FOURTH IN LINE 40 (BF,D,G,S) (J Nicholls Ltd) Miss V Williams 11-11-3 N Williamson 126
607 -13111 SAD MAD BAD 28 (D,G,S) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-1 ... P Niven 99
608 4/4F15 CHARLIE FOXTROT 34 (D,S) (Kelso Members) Miss L Russell 7-11-0 ... R Johnson 92
609 0-U2F1 FOUNDRY LANE 73 (G,S) (A Sharratt) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-13 ... Mr A Dempsey 124
610 644-14 FORREST TRIBE 13 (BF,D,S) (T Hemmings) M Hammond 6-10-10 ... B Harding 130
611 44F213 ROYAL PREDICA 47 (B,S) (P Deal) M Pipe 5-10-9 ... A P McCoy 115
612 P4P21P MANASIS 12 (D,G) (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 8-10-6 ... A Dobbin 126
613 313423 NOSAM 20 (T,F,G,S) (N Mason) N Mason 9-10-5 ... R Guest 125
614 0522U3 SCRAHAN CROSS 45 (BF,S) (Mrs J Magnier) J J O'Neill 6-10-4 ... R McGrath [illegible]
615 2-32F2 HEAVENS ABOVE 12 (B,BF,D,F) (R & G Leonard) F Murphy 7-10-2 ... A Maguire 98

BETTING: 5-1 Foundry Lane, Royal Predica, 13-2 Fourth In Line, 7-1 Society Brief, 9-1 Sad Mad Bad, 12-1 Ballad Minstrel, Strong Tel, Royal Toast, Scrahan Cross, 14-1 Dark Stranger, 16-1 Heavens Above, 20-1 others.

1998: CALLING WILD 8-11-2 Mr J Tizzard (5-2) P Nicholls 6 ran

FOUNDRY LANE, a fair sort on the Flat and useful novice hurdler last season, remains open to further improvement over fences and is potentially well treated on a mark of 117. He was well in command when left clear two out to beat Independent Grey 15 lengths at Wetherby (2m) in January and goes to post a fresh horse here. Other last-time-out winners Ballad Minstrel (upped 15lb after beating Ambleside 4l at Bangor), Royal Toast (stamina question to answer stepping up from two miles) and Sad Mad Bad (has had to work harder than might have been expected when landing the odds in novice events his past two starts) are opposable, but Society Brief boasts some useful form in Ireland and makes the journey from Arthur Moore's stable with a real chance. Fourth In Line ran better than his final placing suggests when fourth to Mouse Bird at Haydock last time and is fancied to confirm previous superiority over Scrahan Cross (5lb better for ¾l beating but below that form subsequently). Royal Predica, another recruit from France for the Martin Pipe stable, may be capable of better than shown his two outings in Britain and as such merits respect.

5.20 BARTON & GUESTIER HURDLE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP)
(£13,901: 3m 110yd) (15)

1 45P310 PHARANEAR 23 (D,F,G,S) (Stainless Thr'ded Fasteners) D Nicholson 9-11-10 R Thornton 143
2 51-110 LADY CRICKET 23 (B,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-11-8 ... A P McCoy 104
3 -01311 TEAATRAL 61 (B,G,S) (B Gover Bloodstock Trading) C Egerton 5-10-13 N Williamson 133
4 -11120 ALPINE PANTHER 61 (D,G,S) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-8 ... P Niven 104
5 134121 JUST NIP 26 (F,G,S) (B Seal, D & M Evans) Mrs L Richards 6-10-6 M A Fitzgerald 148
6 RR3-21 WISLEY WONDER 19 (D,F,G,S) (Wisley Golf) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-5 C Llewellyn 139
7 2FP310 GINGER FOX 21 (T,G,S) (M Van Doorne) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-1 ... R Johnson 123
8 34-644 DARAPOUR 22 (S) (J McManus) A P O'Brien (Ire) 5-10-0 ... C F Swan 142
9 111290 PAPO KHARISMA 23 (G,S) (Hedonists) P Hobbs 9-10-0 ... R Dunwoody [illegible]
10 0P-P10 NOCKSKY 23 (D,S) (T Neill) M Pipe 6-10-0 ... D Gallagher 130
11 2U5-00 JAZZ TRACK 23 (B) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-10-0 ... C Maude 96
12 111-31 MERRY MASQUERADE 19 (D,S) (G Brown) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-0 ... Mr A Dempsey 147
13 301150 CHURCHTOWN GLEN 61 (G,S) (J & C Tipton) S Brookshaw 6-10-0 ... W Marston 126
14 323512 EXALTED 14F (F,S) (Railway-Lochmaben) T Cuthbert 6-10-0 ... K Johnson 118
15 PU-PFP OTTER RIVER 64 (B) (O Carter) O Carter 10-10-0 ... Mr R Forristal (5) –

BETTING: 5-1 Darapour, Lady Cricket, 6-1 Merry Masquerade, Teaatral, 8-1 Alpine Panther, Just Nip, 9-1 Wisley Wonder, Papo Kharisma, Ginger Fox, 12-1 Pharanear, 16-1 others.

1998: THE PROMS 7-11-7 C Llewellyn (7-1) N Twiston-Davies 15 ran

FORM ANALYSIS

TEEATRAL sidestepped an engagement at Ascot yesterday because of unsuitably fast ground having already missed Cheltenham because of a bruised foot. As a result he will go to post fresher than most and, if resuming from where he left off, the progressive five-year-old will take the beating. He was impressive when pouncing from off the pace at Sandown (2m 6f) on his latest start (a below-par Alpine Panther was last of ten) and, even off a 13lb higher mark, he does not look badly handicapped. Pharanear (7th), Nocksky (9th), Papo Kharisma (11th) and Jazz Track (13th) all ran in the Cheltenham (3m 2f) race that Teeatral missed and none could make much impact behind Generosa. Lady Cricket steps up markedly in trip after trailing home ninth in the Champion Hurdle, a remark that applies to Ginger Fox, who was a gambled-on failure in the County Hurdle. Neither are guaranteed to stay — a remark that applies to Darapour, who did not quite get home when fourth (beaten 5l) to Khayrawani in the Coral Cup. Merry Masquerade, in contrast, is a proven stayer but this likeable individual is languishing 8lb out of the handicap and so he will race off a mark 15lb higher than when successful at Newcastle last time.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Aintree: 2.00 Piped Aboard. 3.10 Damza. 3.45 Sands Ol Gold. 4.50 Heavens Above. 5.20 Otter River. **Leicester:** 2.15 Lamorna. 3.20 Lovely Island. **Taunton:** 2.25 Willie B Brave. 2.25 Dante's Gold. 2.25 Calliope. 5.10 Bells Wood.

Black Rock Desert entered

AIDAN O'BRIEN's highly-rated three-year-old Black Rock Desert heads the 13 entries for the Castlemartin/La Louviere Studs Gladness Stakes at the Curragh on Sunday. The three-year-old, easy winner of his only start as a juvenile and a best-priced 12-1 for the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas, is one of three entries for the Ballydoyle trainer in the seven-furlong group three contest. "I have three horses involved — Alexfield, Orpen and Black Rock Desert — but I want to defer a decision for a day or two." O'Brien said yesterday. He added that Pink Coral would be his runner in the Peter Byrne April Fillies Race on the same card.



LEICESTER

ROB WRIGHT

2.15 TOPATORI (nap)
2.45 Emma Peel
3.20 Lovely Island
3.55 Pheisty
4.30 Toto Caelo
5.00 Entertainer
5.30 Triple Treasure
6.00 Weetman's Weigh

Our Newmarket correspondent: 3.20 Plutocrat; 4.30 MAN OF COURAGE (nap); 5.30 Triple Treasure.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

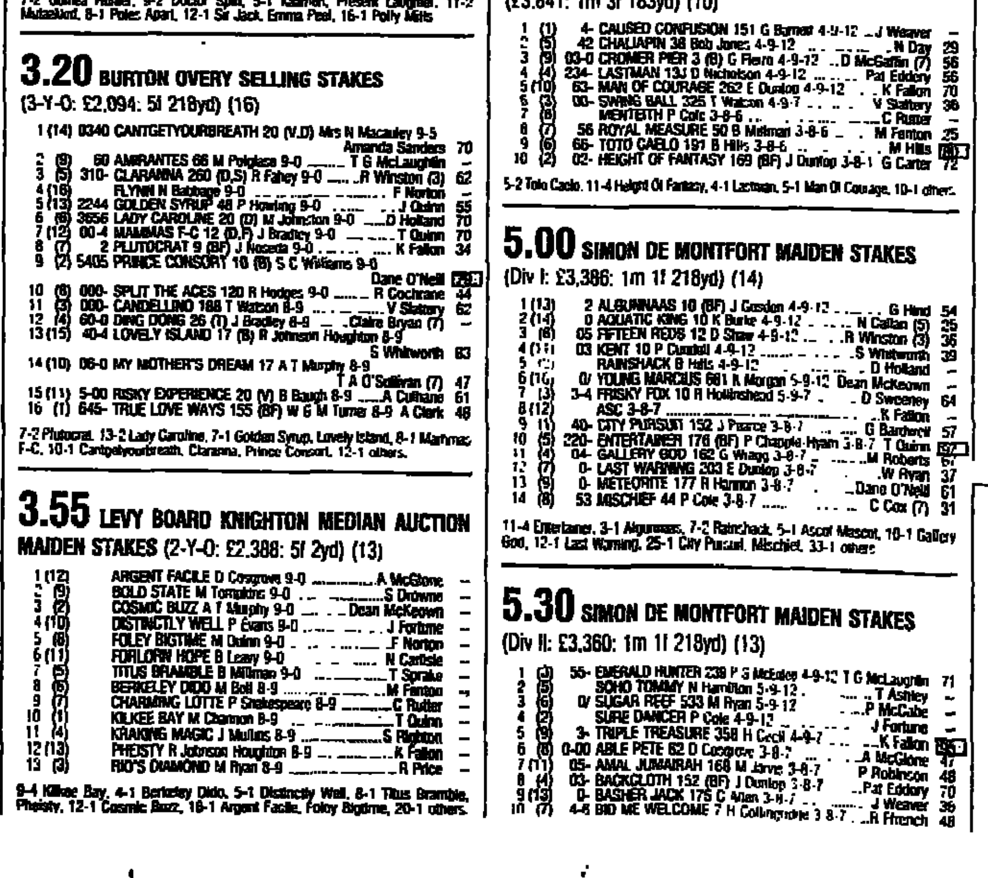
2.15 HARBOROUGH FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,763: 1m 8yd) (14 runners)

1 (2) 126- GAILY MILL 173 (D,F,S) I Balding 4-10-0 ... K Fallon 79
2 (9) 033- TOPATORI 154 (CD,F,S) M Tompkins 5-9-10 S Drowne 90
3 (1) 36-5 PEACEFUL SARAH 13 (F,S) R Ingram 4-9-6 N Pollard (3) 73
4 (12) 42-0 SCENE 13 (BF,D,G,S) J Glover 4-9-6 ... S D Williams 87
5 (13) 100- A TOUCH OF FROST 203 (D,F) C Margarson 4-9-2 A Clark 70
6 (7) 200- ELEA MAGIC 164 (F,G) C Dwyer 4-8-12 ... P McCabe 89
7 (5) 4-00 FORMER LOVE 14 T Donnelly 4-8-3 ... C Rutter 87
8 (3) 2222 ROUGE 26 (BF) J Leigh 4-8-2 ... Dean McKeown [illegible]
9 (8) 050- MAY QUEEN MEGAN 183 (D) Mrs A King 6-8-0 A Daly (3) 81
10 (11) 00-6 LAMORNA 44 (V,F) D Arbuthnot 5-7-10 ... J Quinn 87
11 (6) 060- SHALYAH 113 N Littmoden 4-7-10 ... Dale Gibson 86
12 (10) 650- ALBERKINNIE 138 J L Harris 4-7-10 ... S Righton 68
13 (14) 000- DORTON GRANGE 227 H Manners 4-7-10 J Bosley (7) 79
14 (4) 050- LAURENTIAN 170 F Burke 4-7-10 ... M Henry 62

9-2 Peaceful Sarah, 5-1 Gaily Mill, 11-2 Topatori, 6-1 Rouge, 7-1 others.

2.45 LODDINGTON CONDITIONS STAKES
(3-Y-O: £5,881: 5f 218yd) (9)

1 (2) 511- DOCTOR SPIN 313 (F,G) R Johnson Houghton 9-2 T Quinn 93
2 (1) 212- GUINEA HUNTER 271 (D,S) T Easterby 9-0 ... J Fortune 95
3 (6) 316- KAAMEN 294 (F) B Hanbury 9-0 ... R Hills 89
4 (8) 61- MUTAAKKID 153 (D,S) J Gosden 9-0 ... G Hind 53
5 (7) 2-1 PRESENT LAUGHTER 12 (S) P Cole 9-0 ... Pat Eddery 80
6 (4) 210- SIR JACK 173 (D,G) J Noseda 9-0 ... K Fallon 77



7 (9) 145- POLES APART 208 (D,F) M Tompkins 8-10 ... S Drowne [illegible]
8 (5) 12- EMMA PEEL 170 (D,S) B Meehan 8-9 ... W J O'Connor 91
9 (3) 3421 POLLY MILLS 20 (B,D,S) P Evans 8-5 ... D Sweeney 93

7-2 Guinea Hunter, 9-2 Doctor Spin, 5-1 Kaamen, Present Laughter, 11-2 Mutaakkid, 8-1 Poles Apart, 12-1 Sir Jack, Emma Peel, 16-1 Polly Mills.

3.20 BURTON OVERY SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,094: 5f 218yd) (16)

1 (14) 0340 CANTGETYOURBREATH 20 (V,D) Mrs N Macauley 9-5 Amanda Sanders 70
2 (9) 60 AMIRANTES 66 M Polglase 9-0 ... T G McLaughlin –
3 (5) 310- CLARANNA 260 (D,S) R Fahey 9-0 ... R Winston (3) 62
4 (16) FLYNN N Babbage 9-0 ... F Norton –
5 (13) 2244 GOLDEN SYRUP 48 P Howling 9-0 ... J Quinn 55
6 (6) 3656 LADY CAROLINE 20 (D) M Johnston 9-0 ... D Holland 70
7 (12) 00-4 MAMMAS F-C 12 (D,F) J Bradley 9-0 ... T Quinn 70
8 (7) 2 PLUTOCRAT 9 (BF) J Noseda 9-0 ... K Fallon 34
9 (2) 5405 PRINCE CONSORT 10 (B) S C Williams 9-0 Dane O'Neill [illegible]
10 (8) 000- SPLIT THE ACES 120 R Hodges 9-0 ... R Cochrane 44
11 (3) 000- CANDELLINO 188 T Watson 8-9 ... V Slattery 62
12 (4) 60-0 DING DONG 26 (T) J Bradley 8-9 ... Claire Bryan (7) –
13 (15) 40-4 LOVELY ISLAND 17 (B) R Johnson Houghton 8-9 S Whitworth 83
14 (10) 06-0 MY MOTHER'S DREAM 17 A T Murphy 8-9 T A O'Sullivan (7) 47
15 (11) 5-00 RISKY EXPERIENCE 20 (V) B Baugh 8-9 ... A Culhane 61
16 (1) 645- TRUE LOVE WAYS 155 (BF) W G M Turner 8-9 A Clark 48

7-2 Plutocrat, 13-2 Lady Caroline, 7-1 Golden Syrup, Lovely Island, 8-1 Mammas F-C, 10-1 Cantgetyourbreath, Claranna, Prince Consort, 12-1 others.

3.55 LEVY BOARD KNIGHTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,388: 5f 2yd) (13)

1 (12) ARGENT FACILE D Cosgrove 9-0 ... A McGlone –
2 (9) BOLD STATE M Tompkins 9-0 ... S Drowne –
3 (2) COSMIC BUZZ A T Murphy 9-0 ... Dean McKeown –
4 (10) DISTINCTLY WELL P Evans 9-0 ... J Fortune –
5 (8) FOLEY BIGTIME M Quinn 9-0 ... F Norton –
6 (11) FORLORN HOPE B Leavy 9-0 ... N Carlisle –
7 (5) TITUS BRAMBLE B Millman 9-0 ... T Sprake –
8 (6) BERKELEY DIDO M Bell 8-9 ... M Fenton –
9 (7) CHARMING LOTTE P Shakespeare 8-9 ... C Rutter –
10 (1) KILKEE BAY M Channon 8-9 ... T Quinn –
11 (4) KRAKING MAGIC J Mullins 8-9 ... S Righton –
12 (13) PHEISTY R Johnson Houghton 8-9 ... K Fallon –
13 (3) RIO'S DIAMOND M Ryan 8-9 ... R Price –

9-4 Kilkee Bay, 4-1 Berkeley Dido, 5-1 Distinctly Well, 8-1 Titus Bramble, Pheisty, 12-1 Cosmic Buzz, 16-1 Argent Facile, Foley Bigtime, 20-1 others.

4.30 LANGHAM MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,841: 1m 3f 183yd) (10)

1 (1) 4- CAUSED CONFUSION 151 G Barnett 4-9-12 ... J Weaver –
2 (5) 42 CHALIAPIN 38 Bob Jones 4-9-12 ... N Day 29
3 (9) 03-0 CROMER PIER 3 (B) G Fierro 4-9-12 ... D McGaffin (7) 56
4 (4) 234- LASTMAN 133 D Nicholson 4-9-12 ... Pat Eddery 56
5 (10) 63- MAN OF COURAGE 262 E Dunlop 4-9-12 ... K Fallon 70
6 (3) 00- SWING BALL 325 T Watson 4-9-7 ... V Slattery 36
7 (8) MENTEITH P Cole 3-8-6 ... C Rutter –
8 (7) 56 ROYAL MEASURE 50 B Millman 3-8-6 ... M Fenton 25
9 (6) 66- TOTO CAELO 191 B Hills 3-8-6 ... M Hills [illegible]
10 (2) 02- HEIGHT OF FANTASY 169 (BF) J Dunlop 3-8-1 G Carter 72

5-2 Toto Caelo, 11-4 Height Of Fantasy, 4-1 Lastman, 5-1 Man Of Courage, 10-1 others.

5.00 SIMON DE MONTFORT MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: £3,386: 1m 1f 218yd) (14)

1 (13) 2 ALGUNNAAS 10 (BF) J Gosden 4-9-12 ... G Hind 54
2 (14) 0 AQUATIC KING 10 K Burke 4-9-12 ... N Callan (5) 25
3 (6) 05 FIFTEEN REDS 12 D Shaw 4-9-12 ... R Winston (3) 36
4 (11) 03 KENT 10 P Cundell 4-9-12 ... S Whitworth 39
5 (1) RAINSHACK B Hills 4-9-12 ... D Holland –
6 (10) 0/ YOUNG MARCIUS 661 K Morgan 5-9-12 Dean McKeown –
7 (3) 3-4 FRISKY FOX 10 R Hollinshead 5-9-7 ... D Sweeney 64
8 (12) ASCOT MASCOT 3-8-7 ... K Fallon –
9 (1) 40- CITY PURSUIT 152 J Pearce 3-8-7 ... G Bardwell 57
10 (5) 220- ENTERTAINER 176 (BF) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-7 T Quinn [illegible]
11 (4) 04- GALLERY GOD 162 G Wragg 3-8-7 ... M Roberts 67
12 (7) 0- LAST WARNING 203 E Dunlop 3-8-7 ... W Ryan 37
13 (9) 0- METEORITE 177 R Hannon 3-8-7 ... Dane O'Neill 61
14 (8) 53 MISCHIEF 44 P Cole 3-8-7 ... C Cox (7) 31

11-4 Entertainer, 3-1 Algunnaas, 7-2 Rainshack, 5-1 Ascot Mascot, 10-1 Gallery God, 12-1 Last Warning, 25-1 City Pursuit, Mischief, 33-1 others.

5.30 SIMON DE MONTFORT MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: £3,360: 1m 1f 218yd) (13)

1 (3) 55- EMERALD HUNTER 239 P S McEntee 4-9-12 T G McLaughlin 71
2 (5) SOHO TOMMY N Hamilton 5-9-12 ... T Ashley –
3 (6) 0/ SUGAR REEF 533 M Ryan 5-9-12 ... P McCabe –
4 (2) SURE DANCER P Cole 4-9-12 ... J Fortune –
5 (9) 3- TRIPLE TREASURE 358 H Cecil 4-9-7 ... K Fallon [illegible]
6 (8) 0-00 ABLE PETE 62 D Cosgrove 3-8-7 ... A McGlone 47
7 (11) 05- AMAL JUMAIRAH 168 M Jarvis 3-8-7 ... P Robinson 48
8 (4) 03- BACKCLOTH 152 (BF) J Dunlop 3-8-7 ... Pat Eddery 70
9 (13) 0- BASHER JACK 175 C Allan 3-8-7 ... J Weaver 36
10 (7) 4-6 BID ME WELCOME 7 H Collingridge 3-8-7 ... R Ffrench 48
11 (10) 430- CAPRIOLO 218 (BF) R Hannon 3-8-7 ... Dane O'Neill 81
12 (1) 046- SEGAVIEW 203 Mrs P Sly 3-8-7 ... A Culhane 46
13 (12) 0- THE EXHIBITION FOX 180 B McMahon 3-8-7 R Cochrane 33

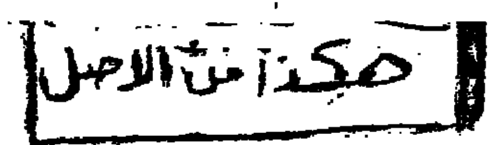
4-9 Triple Treasure, 5-1 Backcloth, 7-1 Sure Dancer, 14-1 Capriolo, 16-1 others.



6.00 KIBWORTH HANDICAP (£4,101: 7f 9yd) (20)

1 (13) 00-0 RUSSIAN MUSIC 12 (D) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-13 J Fortune 69
2 (19) 03-1 TILER 3 (CD,F,S) M Johnston 7-9-11 (6ex) ... D Holland 87
3 (5) 50-0 KALA SUNRISE 12 (F,G) C Smith 6-9-8 ... J Fanning 77
4 (4) 21-0 TUMBLEWEED HERO 10 (B) B Meehan 4-9-7 Pat Eddery 92
5 (2) 5200 PHILISTAR 14 (D,F,G) K Burke 6-9-6 ... J Quinn 101
6 (3) 160- ARTERXERXES 199 (D,F) M Heaton-Ellis 6-9-5 A Daly (3) 75
7 (11) 1126 WEETMAN'S WEIGH 36 (C,D) R Hollinshead 6-9-5 T Quinn 104
8 (16) 000- DOUBLE BRANDY 159 (F) I Balding 4-9-5 S Whitworth 81
9 (8) 321- GREAT NEWS 188 (D,G) I Balding 4-9-4 ... K Fallon 88
10 (10) 100- SAFEY ANA 199 (D,F,G) B Hanbury 8-9-1 ... W Ryan 91
11 (9) 04-0 TEST THE WATER 13 (D,F,S) R Hannon 5-9-1 Dane O'Neill 82
12 (15) 654- BROUGHTONS TURMOIL 182 (BF) B Millman 10-9-1 T Sprake 97
13 (18) 302- EUROBOX BOY 279J (C,F,G) B McMahon 6-9-1 D Kilcourse (7) 90
14 (14) 230- WELCOME SUNSET 222 (S) J Wharton 4-8-13 P Robinson 97
15 (20) 000- MAWINGO 175 (D,F,G) G Wragg 6-8-13 ... A Clark 60
16 (7) -064 OUDALMUTEENA 68 V Soane 4-8-11 ... R Cochrane 63
17 (6) -060 SHARP PEARL 17 (T) D Cosgrove 6-8-10 A McGlone [illegible]
18 (17) 0023 BE WARNED 8 (V,D,F,G,S) J Pearce 8-8-9 ... A Polli (3) 83
19 (12) 021- WHITE SETTLER 210 (CD) Miss S Wilton 6-8-9 ... R Price 90
20 (1) 55-6 TOBLERSONG 7 (G,S) C Dwyer 4-8-8 ... J Lowe 88

11-2 Weetman's Weigh, 6-1 Tiler, Great News, 7-1 Broughtons Turmoil, 10-1 Kala Sunrise, 12-1 Tumbleweed Hero, 14-1 others.



SNOOKER

O'Sullivan gives swift reminder of potential

By Phil Yates

THERE is not a more entertaining spectacle in the game than watching Ronnie O'Sullivan at the height of his powers. It is a sight not often witnessed this season, but the world No 3 could well be coming into form at precisely the right time.

O'Sullivan, whose credentials as a potential world champion have been seriously questioned by a recent lack of focus, was at his dazzling best in the second round of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday. He required only 60 minutes to whitewash Paul Davies 5-0.

For once, the usually self-critical O'Sullivan was reasonably happy with his performance. After stealing the second frame on the black, thanks to a 40 clearance, he compiled breaks of 68 and 97 before finishing stylishly with a run of 104. In so doing, he outscored Davies 510-79.

Steve Davis, Fergal O'Brien and Chris Small, who are all embroiled in a dogfight for places among the elite top 16 in the world rankings next season, all progressed to the next round.

Davis included a pair of century breaks en route to a hard-fought 5-3 win over Michael Judge, while the methodical Small needed almost four hours and an unscheduled second session before defeating Drew Henry, a fellow Scot, 5-3.

O'Brien endured acute anxiety on the way to edging Bradley Jones 5-4. O'Brien, from Dublin, led 4-1 before Jones recovered to 4-4. O'Brien, though, coping admirably with the growing pressure, rolled in a tricky red to a middle pocket to launch a break of 60 that enabled him to squeeze through.

John Higgins, the title-holder, who is attempting to lift his fifth trophy of a lucrative season, enjoyed a comfortable passage into the last 16, even though he never threatened to raise his game to top form. The world champion, who has complained of feeling jaded this week, won 5-1 against Terry Murphy, who was guilty of committing a series of blunders.

RUGBY UNION

France hope that shuffling pack will do the trick

By Mark Souster

AFTER losing at Twickenham and in an attempt to put a gloss finish on a disappointing Five Nations Championship, the France selectors have made three changes, all in the pack, to the side that plays Scotland on Saturday at the Stade de France.

Christian Califano, a replacement against England, starts at loose-head prop in place of Sylvain Marconnet, while Thierry Cleda, of Pau, comes in at lock for Fabien Pelous, who has a rib injury, for his first full cap after eight appearances as a substitute. Christian Labit, the Toulouse flanker, makes his debut as France again reshuffle their back row; Thomas Lievremont switches to No 8 and Christophe Juillet is demoted to the substitutes' bench.

Successive defeats by Wales and England have demoralised the grand-slam-winners of the past two seasons, who have also had a debilitating injury-list that has deprived them of key players such as Olivier Magne and Christophe Lamaison. That aside, Jo Maso, the France manager, has left his side, who tour Tonga, Samoa and New Zealand in June, in little doubt as to the importance of this weekend.

"Saturday's match is extra important for the players and their future. If it does not go well, we would have to make adjustments for the World Cup," Maso said. "We must rediscover the enthusiasm that we had last year and strike fear into our opponents."

Scotland, who name their team today before flying out to Paris, face the prospect of losing the spine of their pack. The loss of Tom Smith, who broke his leg in the victory over Ireland, is bad enough, that of Eric Peters is a hammer blow, while doubts surround the fitness of Scott Murray. However, with David Hilton and Doddie Weir in reserve for Smith and Murray respectively, Scotland at last have strength in depth, while Stuart Reid is expected to replace Peters, who broke a kneecap in Bath's defeat of Leicester last Saturday.

Reid, the captain of Leeds Tykes, won his only cap against Western Samoa three years ago, but he did lead Scotland A to a junior grand slam last season. Having taken a two-year sabbatical from the police force, Reid, 29, left Boroughmuir to pursue a professional rugby career in England last year. Phil Davies, the Leeds coach, believes that Reid deserves another chance. "He is a quick decision-maker, very competitive and always gives 110 per cent," Davies said. "I am sure if he is selected, he will do himself justice."

The home-based Scotland players contracted to the Super Districts will find that their season does not end in Paris this weekend. The Scottish Rugby Union are releasing them to play in two Sevens tournaments, one of which will be at Melrose on May 1.

Meanwhile, the restructuring at Manchester Sale continued yesterday with the departure of Graham Dawe, the former Bath hooker, who joined the club 18 months ago as a player, but more recently has acted as assistant forwards' coach to John Mitchell, who resigned last week.

Gloucester are expected to lose Terry Fanolua, the Western Samoa centre, for the remainder of the season. He damaged a knee ligament in the Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final defeat away to Wasps on Sunday.

Dion O'Cuinneagain, the Ireland open-side flanker, was given the all-clear for the match against Italy at Lansdowne Road on Saturday when he took a full part in the squad session yesterday. O'Cuinneagain damaged his shoulder in the game against Scotland last month.

TEAM

E Ntamack (Stade Toulousain); **X Garbajosa** (Stade Toulousain), **P Giordani** (Dax), **F Comba** (Stade Français), **C Dominici** (Stade Français); **T Castaignède** (Castres), **P Carbonneau** (Brive); **C Califano** (Stade Toulousain), **R Ibanez** (Perpignan, captain), **F Tournaire** (Stade Toulousain), **O Brouzet** (Bègles-Bordeaux), **T Cleda** (Pau), **C Labit** (Stade Toulousain), **R Castel** (Beziers), **T Liévremont** (Perpignan). **Replacements: C Laussucq** (Stade Français), **D Aucagne** (Pau), **T Lombard** (Stade Français), **C Juillet** (Stade Français), **D Auradou** (Stade Français), **S Marconnet** (Stade Français), **M Dal Maso** (Colomiers).



Cleda, who wins his first full cap for France, catches the ball during lineout practice

Harvey plays it by the book

SQUASH

By Colin McQuillan

UK PACKAGING stormed through the semi-finals of the Squash Rackets Association (SRA) National League, beating UNW Northumberland 4-1 at the Connaught Club, Chingford, and have taken their first step already towards success in the final, which is due to be played on April 20 at St Albans, where they will play Capital One Nottingham.

Nottingham reached the final with ease themselves, after refusing to alter a semi-final date for which Potters Bar, their opponents, could not raise an adequate team, but they found that the tables had been turned for the meeting with UK Packaging.

They had requested that the final be put back 24 hours to give Natalie Grainger, of South Africa, their unbeaten fifth-string, time to travel from the Women's International Squash Players' Association (WISPA) Grand Prix finals in Hurghada, Egypt, to St Albans, but Neil Harvey, the UK Packaging team manager, refused to agree, knowing that the SRA, having expelled Potters Bar from the League for failing to field a semi-final line-up, would have to stick to its rules.

"If Natalie does as well as we expect among the other top players from the WISPA World Tour, we will be hard-pressed to get her back in time," Phil Songhurst, the Nottingham team manager, said. "If the SRA applies the rules as they stand, we may have to play the final without a woman at all."

With Linda Charman playing behind Tim Garner, Julian Wellings, Stuart Cowie and Lee Jemmett, UK Packaging dismissed UNW Northumberland 7-3 from the two-legged semi-finals. Nottingham expect to field Simon Parke, who defeated Jonathon Power, the world champion, twice for England squad against the Rest of the World last week, with David Evans, the Welsh champion. Lee Beachill and Jason Nicolle for the final. Nicolle no longer appears in ranking lists but is still a fearsomely experienced opponent at fourth-string for the teenage Jemmett.

Beachill is England's rising star, who beat beat Alex Gough, the Welsh No 1, in a quarter-final of the National League Cup. The win was not enough, however, to stop Dunraven Windows Maesteg from reaching the semi-finals, in which they will join Lingfield, Duffield and Hallamshire.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sturgess told to take rest

CYCLING: Colin Sturgess, the captain of the Men's Health team, was told by a specialist yesterday that he should not race for at least a fortnight because he needs treatment for a degenerative disc disease. Sturgess, a former world pursuit champion, returned to Great Britain this year from Australia with the aim of gaining selection for the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000.

Tom Steels, of Belgium, honed his form for the Paris-Roubaix Classic this weekend with victory in the Ghent-Wevelgem race yesterday.

SAILING: Paul Griffiths, from Banbury, is leading the Laser Radial fleet at the Volvo RYA national youth championships on Grafham Water. After six starts Griffiths, 16, has managed four first places, adding two yesterday. Tim Hulse, from Cheshire, is in second place with Matthew McGovern, from Manchester, third.

ICE HOCKEY: Great Britain start their world championship campaign in Denmark today determined to put up a better performance against Slovenia, against whom they lost 5-3 when they failed to be promoted from pool B. It was their worst defeat of the 1998 championship and Slovenia are expected to be one of Britain's main rivals for the top-four finish they need this year.

CURLING: Maarka Uusipaavalniemi, the Finland skip, led his side to a 8-3 victory against Scotland at the Ford world championships in Saint John, New Brunswick. Scotland are one of four teams tying for the last semi-final place with three games to play.

SKIING: The children's super-giant slalom championship, the first event of the children's (ages 11-15) races at the British Land junior national championships in Tignes, France, was cancelled because of wet snow.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Ascot

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Kings Boy** (M A Fitzgerald, 4-9 fav); 2, Cezanne (20-1); 3, Molet (11-2). 8 ran. 3l, 1½l. N Henderson. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £2.30, £1.50. DF: £8.20. CSF: £11.76.

2.30 (3m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **Wise King** (T J Murphy, 9-2 fav); 2, Northern Starlight (6-1); 3, Philip's Woody (13-2). 9 ran. 3l, ½l. J Old. Tote: £4.70; £1.50, £2.30, £2.20. DF: £21.00. CSF: £29.16. Tricast: £159.21.

3.05 (3m hdle) 1, **Galant Moss** (A P McCoy, evens fav); 2, Lord Jim (12-1); 3, Paddy's Return (11-4). 5 ran. NR: Berlin Blue, Teaatral. 2½l, sh hd. M Pipe. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.50. DF: £8.80. CSF: £11.04.

3.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Dictamn** (A P McCoy, 16-1); 2, Premier Generation (5-1 jt-fav); 3, Warm Spell (6-1). Chai-Yo 5-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. Hd, 5l. M Pipe. Tote: £19.50; £4.30, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £44.50. CSF: £86.55. Tricast: £498.23. Tote Trifecta: £1,017.60.

4.20 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **Dark Stranger** (A P McCoy, 11-10); 2, Master Chuzzlewit (16-1). Eagles Rest 5-6 fav. 3 ran. 30l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.10. DF: £3.30. CSF: £7.46.

5.00 (3m 110yd ch) 1, **Skip'n'time** (Mr M G Miller, 6-4 fav); 2, Alex Thuscombe (25-1); 3, Chism (11-2). 7 ran. NR: Donallach Mor, Solar Warrior. ½l, 19l. R Miller. Tote: £2.10; £1.60, £5.70. DF: £21.00. CSF: £24.68.

5.35 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Interdream** (R Dunwoody, 4-1 co-fav); 2, Pietro Bembo (4-1 co-fav); 3, Krabloonik (4-1 co-fav). 10 ran. 1l, 5l. C Mann. Tote: £4.00; £1.30, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £6.60. CSF: £18.49. Tricast: £60.97.

Placepot: £22.00. **Quadpot:** £11.20

Ludlow

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.10 (2m hdle) 1, **Sharbadarid** (D J Burchell, 7-4 fav); 2, Toy Box (16-1); 3, Candy Copper (40-1). 13 ran. NR: Little Miss Lucy. 1½l, 2½l. J Price. Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £3.20, £4.50. DF: £21.80. CSF: £24.29.

2.40 (3m ch) 1, **Bay Fair** (S Curran, 14-1); 2, The Campdonian (5-1); 3, Lord Max (100-1). Tristram's Image 15-8 fav. 16 ran. 3l, 3l. M Bosley. Tote: £12.10; £2.30, £1.50, £20.10. DF: £12.10. CSF: £70.17.

3.15 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Jaib** (L Aspell, 7-1); 2, The Negotiator (11-1); 3, Selective Rose (16-1); 4, Stretching (16-1). Two Lords 11-2 fav. 18 ran. 3l, 1l. P Murphy. Tote: £6.40; £2.30, £1.70, £5.30, £4.00. DF: £14.90. CSF: £64.60. Tricast: £1,095.01.

3.50 (2m 4f ch) 1, **Gratomi** (S Fox, 7-2); 2, Colonel Blazer (14-1); 3, Inch Emperor (14-1). Jemaro (fell) 15-8 fav. 8 ran. 14l, 5l. P Ritchens. Tote: £4.10; £1.30, £3.00, £2.90. DF: £29.70. CSF: £37.28. Tricast: £462.08.

4.25 (2m hdle) 1, **Mim-Lou-And** (D Gallagher, 3-1); 2, Rolle (10-1); 3, Manlleno (15-2). Balladur (4th) 2-1 fav. 7 ran. NR: Count Tony. 2½l, 7l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £2.00. DF: £8.80. CSF: £25.94. Tricast: £171.29.

4.55 (3m ch) 1, **Grimley Gale** (Mr J M Pritchard, 4-9 fav); 2, Lakeside Lad (66-1); 3, Celtic Abbey (2-1). 5 ran. 28l, 4l. M Jackson. Tote: £1.40; £1.50, £13.30. DF: £19.60. CSF: £16.92.

5.25 (2m hdle) 1, **Dream of Nurmi** (R Walkey, 5-4 fav); 2, Doigts d'Or (6-1); 3, Saint Cecilia (7-1). 18 ran. 3l, 3l. K Bailey. Tote: £2.30; £2.00, £2.20, £1.50. DF: £10.50. CSF: £7.39.

Placepot: £302.00. **Quadpot:** £18.20

Ripon

Going: good to firm

2.20 (5f) 1, **Distinctly East** (S Drowne, 20-1); 2, Welch's Dream (8-1); 3, Sick Willie (6-1). Smart Ridge 5-4 fav. 13 ran. 1l, 2l. M Tompkins. Tote: £36.70; £5.20, £2.60, £2.00. DF: £98.20. CSF: £154.53.

2.50 (1m 4f 60yd) 1, **Piccadilly** (G Carter, 14-1); 2, Dr Woodstock (12-1); 3, Super-Gem (9-1); 4, Pontire Sophie (25-1). Goldengirlmichelle 5-1 jt-fav. 19 ran. 1½l, nk. Miss Kate Milligan. Tote: £23.70; £4.10, £2.90, £3.10, £6.90. DF: £135.00. CSF: £170.13. Tricast: £1,505.70.

3.25 (1m 1f) 1, **Mensa** (S Drowne, 13-2); 2, Sergeant York (14-1); 3, Bring Sweets (9-2). Canta Ke Brave (5th) 2-1 fav. 6 ran. NR: Adelphi Boy. 3l, 2l. M Tompkins. Tote: £8.40; £3.00, £2.80. DF: £28.10. CSF: £70.86.

4.00 (6f) 1, **Levelled** (T Quinn, 12-1); 2, Pepperdine (33-1); 3, Young Bigwig (11-1); 4, Kayo (33-1). Night Flight 100-30 fav. 22 ran. NR: Pure Coincidence. ½l, 1½l. M Channon. Tote: £11.60; £3.50, £11.60, £3.80, £8.20. DF: £897.10. CSF: £349.55. Tricast: £4,025.79.

4.35 (1m 4f 60yd) 1, **Christiansted** (R Cochrane, 9-2); 2, Imperial Prince (25-1); 3, Aldwych Arrow (12-1); 4, Swift (7-2 fav). 20 ran. 1l, ¾l. F Murphy. Tote: £5.90; £2.00, £7.40. DF: £284.30. CSF: £116.50. Tricast: £1,232.00.

5.10 (1m) 1, **The Quare Fellow** (G Hind, 1-2 fav); 2, Rose Dream (6-1); 3, Sunshine Boy (9-2). 11 ran. 2l, 6l. J Gosden. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £2.50, £1.50. DF: £6.30. CSF: £3.55.

5.45 (1m 2f) 1, **Ultra Calm** (P Goode, 12-1); 2, Trois Elles (33-1); 3, Nightglade (50-1); 4, Gilou (25-1). Rum Pointer 5-2 fav. 23 ran. 3l, 2½l. P Haslam. Tote: £17.00; £3.60, £9.90, £23.10, £7.90. DF: £361.10. CSF: £346.06. Tricast: £15,917.28.

6.15 (1m) 1, **Tier Worker** (J Fortune, 9-2); 2, Solfeggi (100-30); 3, Angels Venture (4-7 fav). 10 ran. NR: True Love. 1l, 2l. T Easterby. Tote: £6.40; £1.20, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £5.50. CSF: £17.29. True Love (12-1) was withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 does apply, deduction 5p in the pound to all bets.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £4,537.97 carried forward to Aintree today).

Placepot: £3,808.10. **Quadpot:** £103.70

TAUNTON

ROB WRIGHT

2.25 Willie B Brave
2.55 Sol Music
3.30 Guido
4.05 Duel Island
4.40 Country Store
5.10 Mister Horatio
5.40 Pekay

Carl Evans: 5.10 King Torus.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS

2.25 PITMINSTER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,558: 3m 110yd) (16 runners)

1 5123 THE MINDER 5 (C,G,S) G Edwards 12-11-10 ... J Power
2 5-5P WILLIE B BRAVE 52 (B,D,S) R Phillips 8-11-9 ... J McDermott (7)
3 0060 LADY STEEL 44 (D,F) Miss S Bader 10-11-5 ... L Suthern
4 05P- SLEEPTITE 61F (F) Mrs S Williams 9-11-4 ... M Batchelor
5 6650 DANCING POSER 16 (V,S) G Salding 7-11-4 ... F Kenny (5)
6 2126 PABLO'S JET 24 (C,S) P Farrell 6-11-3 ... S Kelly
7 2435 DIVINE CHANCE 5 (B,D,G,S) M Churches 11-11-3 ... T O'Connor (5)
8 0-UP DANTE'S GOLD 87 (B) C Egerton 8-11-3 ... J Goldstein
9 5504 CERTAIN SURPRISE 3 (B) M Madgwick 5-10-13 ... J Eddery (7)
10 0500 SMUGGLER'S POINT 72 (V,F,G) J Bridger 9-10-13 ... L Cummins
11 0000 EVENKEEL 24 D Wintle 7-10-10 ... J Mogford (3)
12 UFU5 KAREN'S TYPHOON 34 (D,F,G) Miss F George 8-10-8 ... R Massey
13 0R0P CALLIOPE 19 (B) A Curron 7-10-2 ... O McPhail
14 PPP0 DUTCH 16 (B,S) A Barrow 7-10-2 ... A Bates
15 0600 GREENSIDE CHAT 50 L A Dace 9-10-2 ... L Aspell
16 0-00 SILVER GULL 65 H Howe 8-10-0 ... G Supple

2-1 The Minder, 9-2 Pablo's Jet, 6-1 Dancing Poser, 13-2 Divine Chance, 12-1 Willie B Brave, 14-1 Lady Steel, 16-1 Certain Surprise, Smuggler's Point, 20-1 others.

2.55 LANCASTER MERCEDES BENZ SPRINTER NOVICES CHASE
(£4,713: 2m 110yd) (11)

1 5511 SOL MUSIC 27 (CD,S) J King 7-12-0 ... L Cummins (3)
2 3664 FERRUFINO 3 (D,F,G) P Rich 11-11-7 ... L Suthern (5)
3 514R NORTH KILKENNY 27 (C,S) R Alner 8-11-7 ... A Thornton
4 1353 RUN FOR COVER 170 (D,F) Mrs F Dutfield 7-11-2 ... P Holley
5 -0P0 CONNAGAR BAY 118 (S) C Morlock 6-11-0 ... J R Kavanagh
6 0-FF HIGH GALE 44 F Nicholls 7-11-0 ... P Hide
7 0 P4 ROSENCRANTZ 27 (D,F,G) Miss V Williams 7-11-0 ... S Kelly (5)
8 0 TAKE A HAND 121 O Sherwood 7-11-0 ... J A McCarthy
9 -050 AMONG ISLANDS 20 (D,S) G Charles-Jones 8-10-9 ... M Griffiths (5)
10 -00E LEGAL ROMANCE 28 J Tuck 6-10-9 ... H Oliver (5)
11 14-F RAINBOW STAR 47 (B,T,F,S) M Pipe 5-10-7 ... R Greene

2-1 Sol Music, 5-2 Rainbow Star, 5-1 North Kilkenny, 7-1 Ferrufino, 14-1 Run For Cover, Rosencrantz, 16-1 High Gale, 20-1 Among Islands, 25-1 Legal Romance, 33-1 others.

3.30 ORCHARD RESTAURANT MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div I: £2,514: 2m 1f) (14)

1 600 ALPINE FUGUE 156 J Neville 5-11-5 ... A Bates (3)
2 30 FLORISTAN 14 ... R Walkey
3 -253 GUIDO 26 (D,G) Miss V Williams 8-11-5 ... S Kelly (5)
4 20 PARTY ROMANCE 26 (T) ... J Frost
5 534F SHARP DEED 19 ... B Fenton
6 502P INTERPOINT 5 ... S Wynne
7 BARREN LANDS 167F ... J A McCarthy
8 P0 BLUE MUSIC 29 ... R Widger (5)
9 F0 DEDALUS 26 M Pipe 4-10-12 ... G Supple (3)
10 3 DOUBLET ... R Greene
11 2 RAE ... A Thornton
12 THE GENE GENIE 21 ... B Powell
13 4 FRANCESCA'S FOLLY 24 (S) ... O McPhail (5)
14 P0 SECRET TANGO ... L Cummins (3)

[illegible] ... 9-1 The Gene Genie ...

4.05 ORCHARD RESTAURANT MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div II: £2,514: 2m 1f) (14)

1 CANDLE SMOKE 936F (T) Mrs L Richards 6-11-5 ... B Powell
2 3-3P COXWELL COSSACK 111 Miss H Knight 6-11-5 ... B Fenton
3 2-44 HERE'S TO HOWIE 65F M Bosley 5-11-5 ... S Wynne
4 00 UNDER THE THUMB 131 C Morlock 5-11-5 ... J A McCarthy
5 F0 AGIFT 14 Mrs P Robeson 5-11-0 ... Mr S Morris (7)
6 4F0 RISE ABOVE 65 Miss K George 5-11-0 ... R Massey
7 00 CLASSIC MASQUERADE 28 (T) M Pipe 4-10-13 ... G Supple (3)
8 0 DARE 182 E L James 4-10-13 ... J R Kavanagh
9 DUEL ISLAND 213F J Spearing 4-10-13 ... G Tormey
10 0P FUERO REAL 126 P Nicholls 4-10-13 ... A Thornton
11 6 I WISH YOU LOVE 89 P Hobbs 4-10-13 ... R Widger (5)
12 05 MERRY PRINCE 5 P Hedger 4-10-13 ... M Richards
13 200 MISS FARA 21 M Pipe 4-10-8 ... R Greene
14 0 SEA PIG 84 S Knight 4-10-8 ... P Holley

6-4 Miss Fara, 4-1 Classic Masquerade, 5-1 Merry Prince, 8-1 Here's To Howie, I Wish You Love, 14-1 Candle Smoke, 16-1 Coxwell Cossack, 25-1 others.

4.40 LANCASTER MERCEDES BENZ ATEGO HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,407: 3m) (11)

1 P005 GARNWIN 48 (F,G,S) N Henderson 9-11-12 ... J R Kavanagh
2 4-51 ABAVARD 192 (G,S) R Frost 10-11-7 ... T O'Connor (7)
3 1422 SHARP COMMAND 9 (BF,D,F,G,S) P Eccles 6-11-5 ... S Kelly (5)
4 -5R3 VICOSA 9 (D,F,S) R Alner 10-11-4 ... A Thornton
5 5114 WISHING WILLIAM 51 (CD,G,S) Miss H Knight 7-11-0 ... B Fenton
6 3334 JULTARA 27 (D,F,G,S) I Williams 10-10-8 ... R Walkey
7 2P1P PHILATELIC 49 (D,S) R Alner 8-10-4 ... R Widger (5)
8 3100 ROVESTAR 19 (B,G,S) C Popham 8-10-2 ... B Powell
9 1312 COUNTRY STORE 16 (BF,CD,S) M Pipe 10-10-0 ... R Greene
10 6224 DUNNICKS VIEW 14 F Tucker 10-10-0 ... S Burrough
11 PFUP NORTHERN VILLAGE 33 (F) L A Dace 12-10-0 ... L Aspell

5-2 Country Store, 9-2 Sharp Command, 5-1 Jultara, 7-1 Wishing William, 8-1 Rovestar, 10-1 Vicosa, Philatelic, 12-1 others.

5.10 LANCASTER MERCEDES BENZ 'VITO' HUNTERS CHASE
(£2,337: 3m) (10)

1 6302 KING TORUS 9 (BF,CD,F,G,S) V Dartnall 9-12-7 ... Mr J Jukes
2 255- BUZZ O'THE CROWD 331 (BF,D,F,G,S) Mrs F Walker 12-12-5 ... Mr R Woollacott (7)
3 5401 MISTER HORATIO 5P (D,G,S) W Lewis 9-12-5 ... Mr M Lewis (7)
4 FU34 STILL IN BUSINESS 15 (BF,CD,F,G,S) R Barber 11-12-5 ... Miss P Gundry (5)
5 21P0 BELLS WOOD 14 (B,D,G,S) A Dunn 10-12-0 ... Mr D O'Meara (7)
6 0C31 KARLIN'S QUEST 25P (D,G) S Horn 8-12-0 ... Mr D Doyne-Ditmas (7)
7 -2U2 ROBBIE BEE 14 (D,S) Mrs A Tory 9-12-0 ... Mr M G Miller (5)
8 -P41 FOSSY BEAR 18P (D,G) Miss S Young 7-11-9 ... Miss S Young (7)
9 11-2 STALBRIDGE GOLD 12P (BF,D,F,G,S) J Dufosee 10-11-9 ... Miss A Goschen (7)
10 P/0/ TANDEM 1605 N Henderson 11-11-9 ... Mr M Foley (7)

11-4 King Torus, 7-2 Still In Business, 6-1 Buzz O'The Crowd, Stalbridge Gold, 8-1 Karlin's Quest, 10-1 Mister Horatio, Fossy Bear, 12-1 others.

5.40 ORCHARD PORTMAN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,696: 2m 1f) (10)

1 621- PEKAY 299F (G,S) M Pipe 6-12-0 ... R Greene
2 21-4 ERLKING 15 (CD,G,S) R Carson 9-11-8 ... J Power (7)
3 F130 THUNDERPOINT 15 (B,D,F,G) Miss K George 7-11-6 ... R Massey
4 6-40 NINE O THREE 41 (CD) Mrs S Williams 10-11-5 ... R Widger (5)
5 /6-6 ABOVE THE CUT 14 (F,G) C Morlock 7-11-5 ... J A McCarthy
6 -255 ATLANTIC MIST 45 (CD,G) B Millman 6-11-0 ... D Salter
7 3044 ZINE LANE 220 (D,F,G) I Williams 7-10-8 ... L Corcoran (7)
8 3533 DRAGON KING 100 (CD,S) C Barwell 7-10-6 ... B Fenton
9 -134 SPICK AND SPAN 58F (D,F) P Hedger 5-10-5 ... M Richards
10 1556 CADBURY CASTLE 20 (D,G,S) G Charles-Jones 5-10-2 ... L Cummins (3)

7-2 Spick And Span, 4-1 Pekay, 9-2 Erlking, 11-2 Dragon King, 8-1 Nine O Three, 10-1 Thunderpoint, 12-1 Atlantic Mist, Cadbury Castle, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss V Williams, 5 winners from 15 runners, 33.3%; N Henderson, 6 from 19, 31.6%; C Barwell, 5 from 19, 26.3%; O Sherwood, 6 from 24, 25.0%; C Egerton, 4 from 17, 23.5%; P Hobbs, 24 from 106, 22.6%.

JOCKEYS: R Widger, 5 winners from 26 rides, 19.2%; S Wynne, 4 from 22, 18.2%; G Tormey, 9 from 57, 15.8%; G Supple, 8 from 51, 15.7%; B Fenton, 7 from 49, 14.3%; J McCarthy, 3 from 24, 12.5%. Only qualifiers.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Your opponents bid confidently to Six No-Trumps and you find yourself on lead with a suit headed by the ace and king. Are you tempted to double? If you automatically answer "yes" then today's hand may give you pause for thought.

Dealer West — Love all — IMPs

North: ♠ 4 ♥ A 4 ♦ A Q J 9 4 3 2 ♣ 6 5 4

West: ♠ 7 ♥ K Q 10 8 7 6 5 ♦ 8 7 ♣ Q J 2

East: ♠ 8 6 5 2 ♥ 9 3 2 ♦ 10 ♣ A K 10 8 7

South: ♠ A K Q J 10 9 3 ♥ J ♦ K 6 5 ♣ 9 3

W	N	E	S
Levy	*Zia*	*Chemla*	*Forrester*
		Pass	1 S
3 H	3 NT	4 H	4 NT
Pass	6 D	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Double	7 S
All Pass			

Contract: Seven Spades by South. Lead: king of hearts.

This was the most dramatic deal at the 1999 Cap Gemini tournament.

The first five bids of the auction are easy enough to understand. Tony Forrester's Four No-Trumps was no doubt designed to show his partner that he held a source of tricks and Zia judged the situation perfectly by jumping to Six Diamonds. He was right in the sense that his side could make sixteen tricks with diamonds as trumps — but only after East-West had taken the first two in clubs.

The situation was not so clear to Forrester and he retreated to Six No-Trumps.

Could it be that at this point Chemla was blinded by his own smoke screen? He ventured a double.

Fearing the worst but realising that Levy would be on lead if he were declarer, Forrester advanced to Seven Spades. The spotlight was on West. What would he lead?

From the bidding it seems reasonable to place North with the ace of hearts and a good diamond suit. That would appear to mark East with values in clubs but Levy led a heart and a grateful declarer recorded +1510.

East could have avoided all the heartache by bidding Four Clubs at his second turn but that would have spoilt the story.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Dos Hermanas

The annual tournament at Dos Hermanas in Spain has attracted a powerful entry, comprising Anand, Kramnik, Topalov, Adams, Polgar, Karpov, Illescas, Gelfand, Svidler and Korchnoi. In the first round Britain's hope, Michael Adams, inflicted defeat on the powerful Russian, Peter Svidler, while Judith Polgar achieved a major upset by winning in 34 moves against world number two Viswanathan Anand.

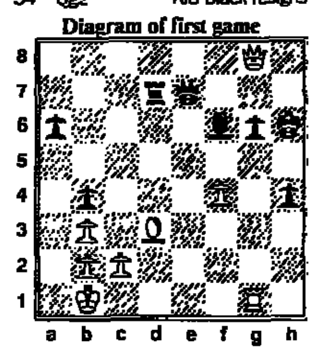
White: Michael Adams
Black: Peter Svidler
Dos Hermanas 1999
Sicilian Defence

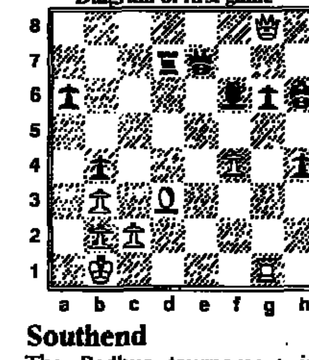
1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be3	e5
7	Nb3	Be6
8	f3	Nbd7
9	g4	b5
10	g5	b4
11	Ne2	Nh5
12	Qd2	Be7
13	Ng3	Nf4
14	h4	h6
15	Bxf4	exf4
16	Nh5	Bxb3
17	axb3	g6
18	Nxf4	hxg5
19	Nd5	Rxh4
20	Rxh4	gxh4
21	0-0-0	Nf6
22	Bc4	Nxd5
23	Qxd5	Bg5+
24	Kb1	Ra7
25	e5	Kf8
26	e6	Bf6
27	exf7	Qe7
28	f4	Qxf7
29	Qxd6+	Qe7
30	Qb8+	Kg7
31	Rg1	Kh6
32	Bd3	Rd7
33	Qg8	Black resigns

White: Judith Polgar
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Dos Hermanas 1999
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be3	e6
7	g4	e5
8	Nf5	g6
9	g5	gxf5
10	exf5	d5
11	Qf3	d4
12	0-0-0	Nbd7
13	Bd2	dxc3
14	Bxc3	Bg7
15	Rg1	0-0
16	gxf6	Qxf6
17	Qe3	Kh8
18	f4	Qb6
19	Qg3	Qh6
20	Rd6	f6
21	Bd2	e4
22	Bc4	b5
23	Be6	Ra7
24	Rc6	a5
25	Be3	Rb7
26	Bd5	Rb8
27	Rc7	b4
28	b3	Rb5
29	Bc6	Rxf5
30	Rxc8	Rxc8
31	Bxd7	Rcc5
32	Bxf5	Rxf5
33	Rd1	Kg8
34	Qg2	Kf8 Black resigns

Diagram of first game





Southend

The Redbus tournament in Southend ended in joint victory for grandmasters James Plaskett and Bogdan Lalic.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LEDGIT
a. Legitimate
b. A book mark
c. A foot-rest

MOLLAG
a. A dog's bladder
b. An Irish wench
c. A blackthorn club

MAHOE
a. A gardening tool
b. A tree
c. An Antipodean grape

MONGIBEL
a. A volcano
b. A man-eating monster
c. A flower

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Chernin - Womacka, German League 1999. In this position it looks as if White's central control is balanced by Black's queenside counterplay. However, White found a winning breakthrough. What did he play?

Solution on page 50

CRICKET

England are no match for peerless Pakistan

From Richard Hobson in Sharjah

SHARJAH (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat England by 90 runs

A FEISTY, belatedly thrilling partnership between Graeme Hick and Andrew Flintoff could not disguise the fact that England were heavily beaten by a highly-motivated Pakistan side at the CBFS Stadium yesterday. Although conditions in Sharjah could hardly contrast more strikingly to those back home, the enormity of this defeat — the seventh in eight one-day internationals — ought to alarm the selectors just five weeks before the start of the World Cup.

Inferior in every department, England conceded their highest total in this form of cricket, with the Pakistan innings of 323 for five underpinned by Ijaz Ahmed, who scored 137 from 130 balls. No England batsman could match him and unless the side recovers to beat India tomorrow, the prospects of qualifying for the final of the triangular tournament will be remote.

Briefly, Hick, who made 65, and Flintoff, whose 50 included four sixes, suggested that, in conditions heavily in favour of the batsmen, something akin to a miracle might materialise. However, Saqlain Mushtaq claimed both wickets in the space of four balls to expose the lower order.

Pakistan have undergone a transformation since Wasim Akram returned as captain at the start of the year. They must now be considered even as potential winners of the tournament beginning on May 14. The confidence brimming through the ranks just three days after winning the Pepsi Cup in Bangalore became apparent from the first legitimate delivery, propelled to the boundary by Saeed Anwar and coursed through the innings until Moin Khan struck the last two balls for six.

That Flintoff, making his international debut in one-day cricket, should be entrusted with the last over suggested that Alec Stewart wants to assess the young Lancashire all-rounder under pressure. Despite bearing the brunt of the powerful late hitting, Flintoff can be judged neither better nor worse than his more experienced colleagues.

Collectively England failed to maintain a consistent line and length on a slow surface permitting little margin for error. A listless performance in the field could at least be mitigated in part by afternoon temperatures in the high 30s and the after-effects of a 16-hour journey from the training camp in Lahore.

Ijaz Ahmed found an effective foil in Shahid Afridi during a partnership of 87 in 17 overs for the second wicket before Inzamam-ul-Haq, restraining his aggressive instincts, provided even stouter support in a stand of 145 at more than a run per ball. Ijaz struck Croft on to the roof of the pavilion as he raised the tempo soon after completing a half-century. Stewart rotated the bowlers in vain before Ijaz drove Gough to Hick at long-off. In his next over, Gough accounted for Inzamam as the stocky batsman attempted a similar stroke, having scored 59 from 64 balls with just three fours. A fine, low catch by Adam Hollioake diving to his right at deep cover to remove Wasim represented a rare impressive moment by an England fielder.

England are using the time in Sharjah to extend their database on the opposition. If he did not know so already, David Lloyd, the coach, can now log the fact that Shoaib Akhtar is quick enough to make life extremely unpleasant for batsmen. Undaunted when Stewart struck him for successive boundaries in his first over, he responded by taking three wickets in a fiery new-ball spell timed at 95 miles per hour. Knight played on to the tenth ball of the innings and Stewart edged an attempted drive to Inzamam at slip.

Thorpe flattered with some well-timed strokes, but the clip off his legs that found short mid-wicket was not among them and Azhar Mahmood breached Fairbrother's defences. Then it was just a damage limitation exercise.

CLIVE MASON/ALLSPORT



Ijaz paddles the ball round to the leg side during his explosive innings of 137 in 130 deliveries for Pakistan yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

Pakistan won toss

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Stewart b Gough (27 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)	17
Shahid Afridi c Gough b Ealham (54 balls, 1 six, 3 fours)	41
Ijaz Ahmed c Hick b Gough (130 balls, 1 six, 12 fours)	137
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Hick b Gough (64 balls, 3 fours)	59
*Wasim Akram c Hollioake b Flintoff (15 balls, 3 fours)	22
† Moin Khan not out (14 balls, 2 sixes, 2 fours)	29
Azhar Mahmood not out (0 balls)	0
Extras (b 1, lb 10, w 3, nb 4)	18
Total (5 wkts, 50 overs, 220min)	323

Yousuf Youhana, Salim Malik, Saqlain Mushtaq and Shoaib Akhtar did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30 (Shahid 8), 2-116 (Ijaz 52), 3-261 (Inzamam 52), 4-280 (Wasim 12), 5-311 (Moin 17)

BOWLING: Gough 10-1-55-3 (nb 3, w 1, 4 fours, 1 six; 5-1-26-1, 2-0-8-0, 3-0-21-2). Mullally 10-0-64-0 (w 2; 9 fours; 7-0-36-0, 2-0-15-0, 1-0-13-0); Ealham 10-0-52-1 (nb 1; 4 fours; one spell): Croft 6-0-36-0 (2 sixes; one spell): Hollioake 5-0-30-0 (3 fours; 4-0-24-0, 1-0-6-0). Hick 2-0-13-0 (one spell); Flintoff 7-0-62-1 (2 sixes, 5 fours, 4-0-25-0, 3-0-37-1).

ENGLAND

N V Knight b Shoaib (4 balls)	1
*† A J Stewart c Inzamam b Shoaib (19 balls, 3 fours)	18
G A Hick c Shoaib b Saqlain (90 balls, 6 fours)	65
G P Thorpe c Azhar b Shoaib (15 balls, 1 six, 1 four)	18
N H Fairbrother b Azhar (23 balls, 3 fours)	19
A Flintoff c Shoaib b Saqlain (51 balls, 4 sixes, 2 fours)	50
A J Hollioake b Shahid (18 balls, 1 six)	18
M A Ealham st Moin b Shahid (14 balls, 1 six)	11
R D B Croft c Yousuf b Shahid (16 balls)	4
D Gough c sub (Wajahatullah Wasti) b Saqlain (15 balls)	4
A D Mullally not out (13 balls)	2
Extras (lb 10, w 10, nb 3)	23
Total (45.5 overs, 200min)	233

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12 (Stewart 10), 2-29 (Hick 6), 3-53 (Hick 10), 4-91 (Hick 27), 5-185 (Flintoff 50), 6-186 (Hollioake 1), 7-208 (Ealham 3), 8-221 (Croft 3), 9-224 (Gough 2).

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 7-0-33-0 (w 3; 1 six, 1 four, one spell): Shoaib Akhtar 10-2-42-3 (nb 2, w 1, 6 fours, 6-0-38-3, 4-2-4-0). Saqlain Mushtaq 7.5-0-23-3 (w 3, 1 six, 5-0-17-0, 2-0-4-2, 0.5-0-2-1). Azhar Mahmood 10-1-55-1 (1 six, 6 fours, one spell). Shahid Afridi 9-0-53-3 (3 sixes, 2 fours, 5-0-34-0, 4-0-19-3). Salim Malik 2-0-17-0 (1 six, one spell)

Umpires: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and I D Robinson (Zimbabwe). Third umpire: D B Hair (Australia). Referee: S Wettimuny (Sri Lanka).

☐ Compiled by Bill Frindall

McGrath mars match-winning performance

From Pat Gibson in Antigua

ANTIGUA (final day of five): Austrlia beat West Indies by 176 runs

IT MAY have been enough to make any red-blooded fast bowler spit, but it cost Glenn McGrath a fine, a reprimand and a warning before he delivered the victory that Australia craved to maintain their grip on the Frank Worrell Trophy.

McGrath did not have to stoop to anything so distasteful. Adrian Griffith, who had been forced to retire hurt when McGrath hit him on the elbow, had defied Australia for almost five hours, but there were still 2½ hours and 41 overs remaining when McGrath had Corey Colymore caught at third slip to give him his thirtieth wicket of the series and Australia victory by 176 runs to ensure that the series ended level at 2-2.

Few in the stands noticed anything untoward as the umpires removed the bails at the end of the fourth day, but the all-seeing eye of television captured the unattractive spectacle of McGrath spitting on the pitch in the vicinity of Griffith. Just in case officialdom had missed it, Brian Lara, the West Indies captain, drew it to the attention of Raman Subba Row, the match referee, and, after studying several television replays, he charged McGrath with bringing the game into disrepute.

At the subsequent hearing, Subba Row accepted that, in the act of spitting, McGrath was not actually aiming at Griffith but found that, because the incident had been seen by so many television viewers if not too many spectators, it demanded disciplinary action. Consequently, McGrath was reprimanded, warned and, since he was already under a suspended sentence of 30 per cent of his match fee (about £900) for abusing Alan Mullally during the sixth Test at Melbourne earlier this year, fined.

McGrath, whose sustained aggression has done more than anything to quell the great West Indies revival in this series, apologised for "something which occurred on the spur of the moment" and later shook hands with Griffith. There was more frustration for him yesterday when Griffith, a left-hander from Barbados playing in only his third Test, continued to defy all his attempts to get him out.

West Indies had lost Jimmy Adams in the third over after they resumed on 105 for four when he overbalanced as Colin Miller surprised him with a quicker ball and Ian Healy completed a brilliant leg-side stumping.

Griffith, who often seemed to be all at sea against McGrath, managed to see him off and went on to survive comfortably enough against the swing of Adam Dale and the spin of Miller and Stuart MacGill.

Ridley Jacobs kept Griffith company for 25 overs before Steve Waugh, the captain, turned again to the medium pace of Greg Blewett, who had already taken the important wicket of Carl Hooper.

Again Blewett did the trick, surprising Jacobs with his skiddy pace to have him leg-before and, though Nehemiah Perry survived to lunch, the new ball was due soon afterwards and McGrath took it at 189 and resumed his assault on Griffith. However, it was MacGill who began to pick his way through the tail. Perry slogged him to mid-wicket and, when the leg spinner bowled Curtly Ambrose, West Indies were 190 for eight with 45 overs remaining.

Griffith's long vigil ended on 56 when he was given out leg-before playing no stroke to a MacGill leg-break and it was only a matter of time before McGrath completed one of the greatest fast bowling performances seen even in these parts.

SCOREBOARD FROM ANTIGUA

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 303 (S R Waugh 72 not out, J L Langer 51; C E L Ambrose 5 for 94).
Second Innings 306 (J L Langer 127, M E Waugh 65, C A Walsh 4 for 78)

WEST INDIES: First Innings 222 (B C Lara 100)

Second Innings

S L Campbell c Healy b McGrath	29
A F G Griffith lbw b MacGill	56
D R E Joseph c Miller b Dale	17
*B C Lara lbw b McGrath	7
C L Hooper lbw b Blewett	12
J C Adams st Healy b Miller	18
† R D Jacobs lbw b Blewett	16
N O Perry c Slater b MacGill	26
C E L Ambrose b MacGill	4
C D Collymore c MacGill b McGrath	6
C A Walsh not out	0
Extras (b 5, lb 12, nb 3)	20
Total	211

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-58, 3-69, 4-87, 5-105, 6-145, 7-184, 8-190, 9-209.

BOWLING. McGrath 35.5-15-50-3; Dale 12-5-28-1; MacGill 26-8-80-3; Miller 21-10-27-1, Blewett 8-3-9-2.

Umpires. D L Orchard (South Africa) and S A Bucknor.

Cricket goes first class for long haul

Richard Hobson looks forward to a congested and lengthy new season that gets under way today

TO FOLLOW the English cricket season through its course requires stamina, tolerance and a keen sense of orientation. Never before has the programme started as early as it does today and, if the 1998 schedule seemed to be confusing, then it stands as a model of simplicity alongside the 165 long days ahead.

That it should begin in the spring tranquility of Fenner's and The Parks remains at least one constant, yet, despite unseasonally mild weather, the crowds will be sparse and even passive interest limited. For Lancashire and Worcestershire, who take on Cambridge and Oxford University respectively, this is little more than extended net practice.

Despite the swollen calendar, the demise of the contest between the county champions and MCC or England A is a shame. If nothing else, it presented an early insight into the selectors' thinking for subsequent international fixtures.

Whether Oxford and Cambridge retain first-class status far into the next millennium must be considered a matter of doubt. For cricketing purposes, Oxford have reacted to the possibility of being downgraded by taking the bold step of merging with Oxford Brooke's University — the former polytechnic — to try to attract young cricketers unable to meet the stiff academic requirements of the colleges.

The England and Wales Cricket Board will announce shortly six universities designated as centres of excellence. They will enjoy games against the counties, although it is unclear if they will be classified first-class. Regardless, an initiative to allow talented youngsters the opportunity to continue to play to a testing standard without forsaking education has to be applauded.

Delegates from the counties, along with MCC, approved the idea at the First Class Forum meeting last week. Decisions on the framework of the game next season were deferred, but, flicking through the fixture list for 1999, it seems perverse that more cricket, including the prospect of a new 25-over competition, will be introduced.

Clearly, the concept of retaining a structure for successive seasons, allowing players and the public a degree of familiarity, is anathema to hyperactive decision-makers. Voting to alter the length of games in the new CGU National League from 50 to 45 overs before it has even begun surpassed the previous capacity for tinkering, as did the U-turn on a moratorium on overseas players for a trial year when the best will be involved in the World Cup.

The National League, embracing promotion and relegation, replaces what used to be known as the Sunday League before games became allocated to different days of the week, seemingly at random. Rather than starting grandly with a full programme, it begins in dribs and drabs. Leicestershire entertain Hampshire on April 17 in the first division, with another game — plus two from the second division — a day later.

Once again, the championship is peripatetic. At least Leicestershire, defending the title, have been allowed the courtesy of playing in the first round of matches, against Essex at Chelmsford starting on Tuesday next week. Do not, however, make the mistake of thinking that this sets the tone. By the middle of May, four-day games will have begun on five different days of the week.

An expansion of the NatWest Trophy to 60 teams represents another minefield to the unwary. As well as the minor counties, it features recreational teams from each of the first-class counties, comprising the best club cricketers in the area. Denmark are also admitted for the first time.

The World Cup will nudge county affairs into the background well before England open the tournament against Sri Lanka at Lord's on May 14. In the week before, any number of disgruntled sweats have the opportunity to press a point in warm-up matches between the 12 competing nations and the counties.

By far the most intriguing takes place at Canterbury on May 7, when Kent entertain England — a throwback to the days of Alfred Mynn and Fuller Pilch. Surely this confirms that, however much people tamper with the game, no idea is original, simply a variation of a theme.

TUESDAY

A 16-page guide to the coming season, with full details of the World Cup and domestic competitions



Paul Todd gives the pitch at The Parks a final roll before the game there today. Photograph: Ben Gurr

RUGBY LEAGUE: LONDON BRONCOS CAPTAIN FACES DECISION ON WEMBLEY START

Edwards far from final thumbs-up

By Christopher Irvine

SHAUN EDWARDS, the London Broncos captain, is considering whether he should risk permanent injury by making a record-extending eleventh Silk Cut Challenge Cup final appearance at Wembley against Leeds Rhinos next month.

A specialist has advised the former Great Britain scrum half not to play for up to 12 weeks after he broke his right thumb in the semi-final defeat of Castleford Tigers. Edwards played the second half of the match and six days afterwards against Hull Sharks using painkillers before going for X-rays. "It's broken in a really bad place and if it doesn't set properly, I might end up with very bad arthritis — and I'm right-handed," Edwards said.

Dan Stains, the Broncos coach, is reluctant to rule out a player with such a fearless reputation as Edwards, who played on with a fractured eye socket during Wigan's 1990 cup final defeat of Warrington.

Meanwhile, London hope to have Robbie Simpson, Robbie Beazley and Peter Gill back in their pack for the visit to the Stoop Memorial Ground tomorrow night of St Helens, the JJB Super League leaders. However, their front-row problems have not been helped by an injury to Matt Salter in the defeat at Leeds on Monday.

After a 30-14 league defeat away to Halifax on Tuesday night, Andy Gregory, the Salford Reds coach, summoned his players to a 7am training session yesterday, accusing some of them of living in "the comfort zone". Malcolm Alker, the Salford hooker, has sprung a shoulder, but Gregory hopes to have Gary Broadbent at full back and David Hulme at loose forward for the visit of Castleford.

WORD-WATCHING

LEDGIT
(b) A label projecting from a leaf of a book. From from *ledge + it*. *The Bookseller*, 1885: "Half-bound, with Parchment Ledgits for the years."

MOLLAG
(a) A dog's skin blown up as a bladder, and used to float the herring-nets. The Manx word. *As empty as a mollag* = quite empty. *As full as a mollag* = dead drunk. "Your head's as empty as a mollag."

MAHOE
(b) The New Zealand Whitewood tree, *Melicytus ramiflorus*. "Mahoe grows to a height of not more than 50 feet."

MONGIBEL
(a) Mount Etna. From *Monte Gibello*. From the Arabic *jabal* = a mountain. "Within us we felt too often such furnaces or Mongibels or Mongibels of fires."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE
1 Qxc6! and if 1 ... dxc6 2 Rd8+ Qf8 3 Rxf8+ Kxf8 4 Rd8+ Ke7 5 Nxc6+ Kf6 6 Nxb8 and White wins.

Taking the pursuit of danger to its peak

Any sport that plays with danger will always have an image problem. Whether it is the Grand National or mountain climbing, whenever things go wrong there is clamour for it to be banned. The latest sport under attack is canyoning — a high-adrenalin mix of swimming, jumping and abseiling. This week, it claimed the life of a 17-year-old British girl in the Blue Mountains of Australia and the weight of public disapproval will, inevitably, follow.

Such concern is nothing new. After the first Grand National in 1839, one newspaper in Liverpool savaged the race as "an affront to humanitarian principles" and, from that day, the accusation has become an annual event.

As far as we know, the Queen has not yet called in the Prime Minister over the dangers of Aintree, but another sport that had its infancy in the nineteenth century did not get off so lightly. The first great accident in mountain climbing occurred in 1865, when four of a team of seven fell to their deaths on the Matterhorn. Queen Victoria was so far from being amused that she called in Gladstone to get the new and dangerous sport banned.

The tragedy that caused such a wave of excitement, grief and indignation came only two hours after a party, led by Edward Whymper, the English climber, had achieved the first ascent of the mountain.

More than a century later, Alan Lyall, another climber (with an obsession to match that of Whymper) has devoted years of his life to producing a mountain of a book, a magnificently encyclopaedic guide to the most famous accident in climbing history.



> 'Many English gentlemen were caught in a rough race to the top'

On July 14, 1865, a team composed of Whymper, Charles Hudson, a clergyman, Lord Francis Douglas, the heir to the Marquess of Queensberry, and Douglas Haddow, a 19-year-old novice climber, with Michel Croz, Peter Taugwalder and his son, also Peter, as guides, set out for the Matterhorn.

The climb proved to be easier than they feared, but during the descent things went horribly wrong. Haddow slipped and pulled Hudson, Croz and Douglas with him. The rope between the elder Taugwalder and Douglas broke and the four fell 4,000ft to their deaths. Eventually, Whymper and the Taugwalders returned, terrified, to Zermatt. The next day, Whymper recovered three of the bodies. The body of Lord Douglas was never found.

In the great flurry of of public speculation that followed, the British press asked how four could have fallen (including two experienced climbers and a renowned guide) while three remained safe. Rumours spread that Whymper or Taugwalder had cut the rope to save their own skins.

An inquiry was set up at Zermatt, but, despite days of interrogations, no charges were made and rumours persisted. Dozens of letters were published in *The Times* and Whymper himself was obliged to give an account of the incident in the newspaper in August, 1865. An editorial in *The Times* asked "why the best blood of England was to waste itself scaling hitherto inaccessible peaks".

These English gentlemen, like many since, were actually caught up in a rough, tough race to be first to the top. National pride added an edge to the adventure. Whymper had initially persuaded Jean-Antoine Carel, an Italian climber, to attempt the mountain with him. Bad


A contemporary illustration of the Matterhorn tragedy

weather ruled that out — but on July 11, while Whymper was still asleep, Carel and a team set out to conquer the Matterhorn. Whymper was outraged and the race was on. When the English party treached he summit and saw no footprints in the snow, Whymper realised that they had won and hurled rocks down the Italian side of the mountain to let Carel's party know they had been beaten.

In London, Queen Victoria's private secretary wrote to the Prime Minister: "The Queen commands me to ask if you think she can say anything to mark her disapproval of the dangerous Alpine excursions which this year have occasioned so much loss of life." Gladstone replied that he saw "no room for action".

If the Victorians had any doubts about the thoroughness of the enquiry in Zermatt, they would have none about the exhaustive archive assembled by Lyall. He is a lawyer and his book is the case for the defence of Whymper and climbing as a sport.

Mountaineering survived the avalanche of public hostility that this first and most famous accident heaped upon it, but whenever there is a death on the mountains, in the canyons or in any other dangerous sport, the public will be baffled by the attempts of sportsmen to explain why they take such risks.

Lyall covers every inch of the Matterhorn and every detail of the fall, but can never quite explain what drives the climber to the top. If you really want to know what makes men play with danger and death on the mountains, you are left clinging to the words of George Mallory.

Asked why he wanted to climb Everest, he replied: "Because it's there." Mallory lies where he died, close to the top of his mountain.

☐ *The First Descent of the Matterhorn* by Alan Lyall is available from Henry Sotheran Ltd. Phone: 0171 439 6151.

JOHN BRYANT

FOOTBALL

Vialli looks to make flying start

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

THE flight to triumph in the Cup Winners' Cup is mostly made up of runway and Chelsea, in three rounds against markedly inferior opponents, have been trundling over the tarmac for seven months. However, tonight, in the first leg of the semi-final, Gianluca Vialli's side will have to take wing if they hope to land in the final, at Villa Park on May 19, and retain the trophy.

Playing against Real Mallorca at Stamford Bridge, one virtue must be ditched. Chelsea are renowned for the patience of their style, but it will not be enough simply to lap against the Spanish club's defence. Coastal erosion has never removed a cliff in just 90 minutes. Although Mallorca are not a particularly tall team, they are capable of monumental resistance.

Whatever other advantages they retain, Chelsea, who have scored 45 times in 30 FA Carling Premiership matches, have conceded wryly that they will not beat Manchester United to the title on goal difference. The side has made good progress with a strategy that is, in essence, conservative. To some extent, the approach has been foisted upon them.

Part of Chelsea's intended panache decamped to Denmark when Brian Laudrup decided that he would be happier in his homeland. Nonetheless, there is a worldliness to Vialli, the player-manager. He is relatively new to the post, but, as a veteran footballer, he carries in his mind the old tradition of painstaking prudence that used to define the sport in Italy.

Chelsea are talented enough to adopt different guises. A year ago, at the same stage of this tournament, they produced a barnstorming performance to score three goals in the second leg after Vicenza had taken the lead. A recreation of the mood and catapulting attacks of that occasion may be called for against a resolute Mallorca.

Both Real Madrid and Barcelona have been beaten by Mallorca this season and they now represent Spain's last genuine prospect of a European trophy, after Atlético Madrid's decisive 3-1 defeat at home by Parma in the Uefa Cup on Tuesday.

The environment that they enter this evening will cause them no disquiet. In the quarter-final, an overawed Vålerenga looked as they might be more intent on collecting autographs at Stamford Bridge than in writing their own names into the history books. Mallorca, accustomed to trips to the Nou Camp and the Santiago Bernabéu, will not be so stagestruck in West London.

The Cup Winners' Cup has, so far, been a pet project for Vialli and its matches bring the most regular sightings of the forward. He chose himself for both games with Vålerenga and will probably take part this evening, in a far more taxing test. While Graham Rix, Vialli's customary lieutenant, serves a prison sentence, Ray Wilkins holds the supervisory role on the sidelines.

It is Vialli's judgment that will be applied to the case of Gustavo Poyet. The Uruguayan has not started a match since Boxing Day, when his knee was badly injured, and on his return, as a substitute in the victory away to Charlton Athletic on Saturday, his display was convalescent in tone. The player has doubts over the depth of his fitness, but pointed out that he returned, after six months of recovery from cruciate ligament damage, to face Vicenza last season.

Vialli will contemplate using him in some capacity, so important has been his knack of supplying the breakthrough with a goal from midfield.

POPPERFOTO

Roa, who is excelling with Mallorca in Spain, made his name as the man who knocked England out of the World Cup

Roa's savings account swelling

Rob Hughes, Chief Sports Writer, on an Argentine goalkeeper threatening to block English hopes

There is always something about a Latin American goalkeeper. René Higuita gave us the scorpion save at Wembley, José Luis Chilavert was the magnificent prima donna of the World Cup and, tonight, Carlos Roa intends to stand defiant against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Roa is the Argentina goalkeeper who saved penalties from Paul Ince and David Batty to eliminate England from the World Cup last summer. He organises the meanest defence in Spain, where his team, Real Mallorca, have remained stubbornly among the Primera Liga leaders by conceding less than a goal a game — 21 in 28 matches.

Modest with it, Roa, who typically let nothing pass him last weekend when Mallorca won 2-0 away to Villarreal, said: "We don't let in many, but it's down to the whole team's hard graft. We're a disciplined side who work hard defensively all over the pitch."

Roa read speculation that Manchester United looked his way for a successor to Peter Schmeichel, but he would have difficulty fulfilling the fixtures because the English still play some games on Saturday afternoons. As a Seventh Day Adventist, this goalkeeper is comfortable with the Spanish Sunday routine.

The island community, with its modest 14,000-seat Lluis Sitjar stadium, supports a club built on Wimbledon finances and Arsenal method. Hector Cuper, the coach, also an Argentinian, last season blended Mallorca into a side that finished fifth in Spain, but those players quickly dispersed. Nine were sold off, but Cuper took other people's casts-offs and welded them through camaraderie and team ethic.

"Dani" Garcia, a striker scarcely given a game at Real Madrid, Vicente Engonga, a midfield enforcer, and Elena Marcelino, a tough centre back, have all gained international caps late in their careers. Next, Cuper plundered Lanus, his former club on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, for Gustavo Siviero, an uncompromising central defender.

From Lanus, too, came Ariel Ibragaza, a midfield player, and Ariel "Chupa" Lopez, a striker, though the latter might start on the bench, replaced by Leonardo Biagini, inevitably Argentinian.

Completing his brew, the coach has two Yugoslavs — Veljko Paunovic, whom Chelsea must prevent from creating on the right, and Jovan Stankovic, who would run the other flank were he not suspended. Lauren Etama-Mayer, from Cameroon, forms a partnership with Engonga in front of the back four that does for Mallorca what Vieira and Petit do for Arsenal. "Nobody," Engonga said, "beats us at running."

So, at a profit of £7 million, Cuper has recast Mallorca in the cosmopolitan manner of Gianluca Vialli's Chelsea. When the Argentinian observed that Chelsea have great players but that nothing intimidates his team, it is no idle boast. The new Mallorca have beaten Barcelona, Real Madrid and thrashed Atlético Madrid 4-0. Not until late January, when Mallorca skidded in torrential rain to a 4-2 defeat away to Celta Vigo, was Roa's goal breached more than once in a match.

"Lettuce", as the vegetarian Roa is known to his teammates, has never been so wet or so exposed. In the Cup Winners' Cup, Heart of Midlothian, Racing Genk, of Belgium, and Varteks Varazdin, of Croatia, have been squeezed out with a miserly aggregate of six goals to three. Cuper said: "Chelsea are technically very good, but I'd never regard an opposing team as one we cannot beat."

DETAILS

CHELSEA (possible, 4-4-2): E de Goey — A Ferrer, M Desailly, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, D Wise, R Di Matteo, G Poyet — G Vialli, G Zola.

REAL MALLORCA (possible, 4-4-2): C Roa — X Olaizola, G Siviero, Marcelino, M Soler — Lauren, V Engonga, A Ibagaza, V Paunovic — Dani, L Biagini

Referee: D Jol (The Netherlands)

TELEVISION: Channel 5, live, from 7.30.

O'Leary decides to retain Korsten

BY STEPHEN WOOD

LEEDS United are expected to complete the permanent signing of Willem Korsten, the midfield player, who has been on loan at Elland Road for the past three months. Korsten, whose registration papers are still held by Vitesse Arnhem, the Dutch club, has impressed David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, during the loan spell.

The fee could rise to £1.5 million and O'Leary will aim to complete the deal before April 15, the transfer deadline day in The Netherlands.

O'Leary said: "Only time will tell whether we will be able to get another two or three people during the summer, but for now, Korsten will be a nice acquisition for us."

O'Leary wants at least another centre back and striker. Alan Stubbs, the Celtic defender, has expressed a wish to return to English football and O'Leary is believed to be interested in signing the former Bolton Wanderers player.

Charlton Athletic are investigating a proposal to build a new stadium at the Millennium Dome site in Greenwich. The site is only half a mile away from their present home at The Valley and a new stadium would increase the club's existing crowd capacity from 20,000 to 45,000.

Paul Jones, the Southampton goalkeeper, could miss the rest of the season through injury. Jones, 31, suffered back spasms before Wales's European championship qualifying match against Switzerland last week and is awaiting the results of a scan that will dictate whether he can play again before June.

Halifax Town, the Nationwide League third division club, have dismissed Kieron O'Regan, their manager, and Andy May, O'Regan's assistant. Dave Worthington has been appointed on a game-to-game basis.

Edilson, a left back with Red Star Belgrade, of Yugoslavia, is expected to arrive for a trial with Liverpool tomorrow. If the Brazil-born player impresses, the Anfield club could make the move permanent for about £500,000.

New back treatment benefits Heskey

BY CHRIS MOORE

EMILE HESKEY, the Leicester City striker who has been handicapped by a back injury, has returned to action after revolutionary training sessions with David Rennie, a physiotherapist and former swimming international.

Leicester's club doctors had suspected that Heskey's injury was related to a stress fracture, but tests by Rennie at the East Midlands therapy clinic in Loughborough diagnosed an imbalance of the muscles in his back. Rennie holds a degree in sports science.

Mick Yeoman, the Leicester City physio, said: "His muscles have not been firing together properly. This condition will not show up medically. It's something that's a bit off the wall.

"Emile has been suffering from back spasms for several months. Ten minutes into a game, his back would seize up. We'd massage it at half-time, but gradually it just took over.

"He was assessed for two weeks at the clinic and has spent the last two weeks undergoing special training and exercises with David Rennie. He has a session with him before he trains with the rest of the players and another two-hour session every afternoon.

"It usually involves sprinting and cycling while timed on a heart-rate monitor. It's a new concept and there's no one else in the country specialising in it."

Yeoman said that Heskey was initially sceptical about the treatment — "but since beginning this treatment, he's really picked up and is now a different person mentally.

"He came in at half-time against Spurs last Saturday pain-free but was still very concerned that the discomfort would soon come back. We had to reassure him it wouldn't. He had a blinder in the second half."

Heskey has lost 9lb in nine days and is "ahead of schedule" on his recovery programme. "David Rennie thinks he has only reached 80 per cent of his overall fitness potential," Yeoman said.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ Queens Park Rangers are likely to release up to 20 players in the summer in a bid to ease their wage bill. The club has been losing nearly £100,000 a week since dropping out of the FA Carling Premiership three years ago.

There are 44 professionals on the books, compared to 24 when they played in the Premiership. Steve Morrow, the former Arsenal midfield player player, and Gavin Peacock, who was signed from Chelsea, and who together cost the club more than £500,000 a year, are likely top the list of those to be sold.

■ Gerhard Aigner, the secretary of Uefa, the European governing body, has suggested that all players should have to pass a referees' test before signing their first professional contract. Aigner also proposes that players should then referee a match once a month at local youth level.

■ Hibernian have clinched a sponsorship deal estimated to be worth £500,000 over the next two years with Carlsberg.

■ Javier Margas, the West ham United and Chile international defender, has told Nelson Acosta, the national coach, that he wants to retire because he is exhausted by the demands of the game. Margas, 29, has played only a handful of games for the club since signing from Universidad Catolica.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego 4 Colorado 3; Cincinnati 6 San Francisco 7; Florida 3 New York Mets 12; Pittsburgh 8 Montreal 2; Atlanta 11 Philadelphia 3; Houston 4 Chicago Cubs 2; Los Angeles 3 Arizona 2 (10inns)

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 6 Toronto 1; Texas 6 Detroit 0; Anaheim 6 Cleveland 5; Oakland 4 New York Yankees 7, Seattle 3 Chicago White Sox 11.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Philadelphia 95 Milwaukee 87; Toronto 70 Miami 92; Cleveland 96 Chicago 89; New York 72 Orlando 81, Washington 93 New Jersey 97; Houston 111 Golden State 74; Portland 98 Vancouver 89; Seattle 108 Sacramento 112 (OT), Los Angeles Clippers 83 Phoenix 88, Los Angeles Lakers 106 Utah 93

FOOTBALL

FIFA WORLD YOUTH CUP: Group A (in Lagos): Nigeria 2 Germany 0. **Group B** (in Kaduna): Ghana 1 Argentina 0. **Group C** (in Ibadan): Mexico 3 Australia 1.

Tuesday's late results

UEFA CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Atlético Madrid 1 Parma 3, Marseilles 0 Bologna 0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal 1 Blackburn 0, Leicester 2 Aston Villa 2.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Bournemouth 1 Macclesfield 0; Luton 2 York 1; Walsall 1 Wrexham 0. **Third division:** Brighton 1 Cambridge Utd 3; Shrewsbury 0 Hartlepool 1.

BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Dundee Utd 1 Hearts 3

RYMAN LEAGUE: Second division: Tooting and Mitcham 1 Met Police 0. **Third division:** Clapton 1 East Thurrock 0, Lewes 6 Camberley 2.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cable-Tel 1 Barry 2.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bandon 3 Brierley Hill 0; Darlaston 6 Smethwick 2; Walsall Wood 0 Dudley Town 1. **League Cup: Third round, first leg:** Cradley 3 Wolverhampton Casuals 1; Westfields 3 Kington 4.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 3 Stoke 2; Everton 2 Sunderland 5. **First division:** Barnsley 1 West Bromwich 2. **League Cup: Semi-final:** Stockport 3 Bradford 1.

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street 1 West Auckland 1; Easington 3 Stockton 1.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell 5 Calne 1.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Sixth-round replay: West Ham 4 Arsenal 0

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Buckingham 1 N Spencer 3.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne 2 Hailsham 1; Redhill 0 Ringmer 0.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Slade Green 2 Faversham 1

DUTCH LEAGUE: Cambuur Leeuwarden 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 1.

GOLF

HALFORD HEWITT CUP FIRST-ROUND DRAW: Malvern v Bishop's Stortford; Loretto v Wellingborough, King's, Canterbury v Westminster; Brighton v Highgate; Framlingham v Lancing; Stonyhurst v Dulwich; Canford v Epsom; Repton v Radley; Bradfield v City of London; Charterhouse v Downside; Watson's v Wellington; Mill Hill v Taunton; Gresham's v Merchiston; Eton v Marlborough; Ampleforth v Edinburgh Academy; Uppingham v Stowe, Fettes v Trent; King Edward's, Birmingham v Haileybury; Harrow v Liverpool; Cheltenham v Rugby. Berkhamsted v Tonbridge; Rossall v Forest; Felsted v Aldenham, Bedford v Chigwell; Sherborne v Shrewsbury; Eastbourne v Oundle; Clifton v St Paul's, Glenalmond v Hurstpierpoint; Cranleigh v Winchester; The Leys v Merchant Taylors', Blundell's v St Bees, Wrekin v Whitgift.

HOCKEY

BELFAST: Under-18 European Trophy: Final: England 3 Germany 2.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Carolina 4 New Jersey 2; New York Islanders 3 Buffalo 4; Phoenix 0 San Jose 1

RUGBY LEAGUE

JJB SUPER LEAGUE: Halifax 30 Salford 14.

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP: Bramley 28 Doncaster 10

SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 4a (Hong Kong to Singapore, with miles to finish): 1, Mermerus (B Sollars) 574; 2, Chrysolite (T Hedges) 576; 3, Antiope (K Harris) 577; 4, Ariel (A Thomson) 578; 5, Serica (R Dean) 586; 6, Taeping (N Fleming) 587; 7, Thermopylae (M Tod) 591

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS: British Open: Second round: M Holt (Eng) bt D Finbow (Eng) 5-2; B Morgan (Eng) bt A McManus (Scot) 5-3, M Williams (Wales) bt C Harrison (Eng) 5-2; M King (Eng) bt D Morgan (Wales) 5-3, F O'Brien (Ire) bt B Jones (Eng) 5-4; S Davis (Eng) bt M Judge (Ire) 5-3; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt P Davies (Wales) 5-0; J Higgins (Scot) bt T Murphy (N Ire) 5-1, C Small (Scot) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-3; N Walker (Eng) bt A Davies (Wales) 5-2; P Ebdon (Eng) bt M Gray (Eng) 5-4

SQUASH

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Semi-finals: UK Packaging 4 UNW Northumberland 1 (T Garner bt T Hands 15-10, 14-15, 15-6, 15-9; J Wellings bt J Dale 11-15, 15-1, 15-5, 12-15, 15-5, S Cowie bt P Millington 15-8, 15-5, 15-5; L Jemmett bt D Woodman 15-9, 15-10, 14-15, 15-6; L Charman lost to J Martin 5-9, 9-2, 10-8, 3-9, 5-9); Capital One Nottingham wo Potters Bar.

NSL CUP: Quarter-final: Capital One Nottingham 1 Dunraven Windows Maesteg 2.

TENNIS

LISBON: Estoril tournament: Men: First round: N Marques (Por) bt G Solves (Fr) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; T Martin (US) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 6-1, 7-6; V Spadea (US) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 6-2, 6-1, F Meligeni (Br) bt A Di Pasquale (Fr) 6-2, 6-3, A Pavel (Rom) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-3, 2-6, 6-3; R Agenor (Haiti) bt F Vicente (Sp) 6-1, 6-4, G Kuerten (Br) bt J A Marin (Sp) 6-3, 7-6, 6-4, M Rios (Chile) bt A Voinea 3-6, 6-4, 6-2. **Second round:** K Alami (Mor) bt Pavel 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, J Golmard (Fr) bt Spadea 6-3, 6-2; A Costa (Sp) bt Agenor 7-6, 7-6, F Mantilla (Sp) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 6-3, 6-2. **Women: First round:** L Bacheva (Bul) bt V Menga (Br) 6-1, 6-1, S Pitkowski (Fr) bt K Boogert (Neth) 6-1, 6-3; A Kremer (Lux) bt R Sandu (Rom) 6-3, 6-0; S Talaja (Cro) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; L Cervanova (Slovenia) bt L Courtois (Bel) 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, E Bes (Sp) bt L Ghirardi (Fr) 6-2, 6-2. **Second round:** R Kuti Kis (Hun) bt A Huber (Ger) 7-6, 6-1; A Barna (Ger) wo A Gersi (Cz), Kremer bt E Bes (Sp) 6-4, 6-4, M Diaz Oliva (Arg) bt B Schwartz (Austria) 1-6, 6-0, 6-1.

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida: WTA Bausch and Lomb championship: First round: A Kournikova (Russ) bt E Koulikovskaya (Russ) 6-1, 7-5; L Raymond (US) bt L Neiland (Lat) 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, F Zuluaga (Col) bt M Lucic (Cro) 6-4, 6-1, I Gorrochategui (Arg) bt J Nejedly (Can) 6-3, 6-1; A Smashnova (Isr) bt E Gagliardi (Switz) 7-5, 6-1. **Second round:** B Schett (Austria) bt C Papadaki (Gr) 6-3, 6-3, R Dragomir (Rom) bt M Serna (Sp) 6-2, 6-2; V R Pascual (Sp) bt T Panova (Russ) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3, N Dechy (Fr) bt E Tatarkova (Ukr) 6-1, 6-3, M Seles (US) bt K Hrdlickova (Cz) 6-2, 6-2; C Martinez (Sp) bt T Snyder (US) 6-1, 6-2; L Davenport (US) bt T Pisnik (Slovenia) 7-5, 6-3, S Jeyaseelan (Can) bt V Williams (US) 6-4, 7-6, P Schnyder (Switz) bt J Steck (SA) 6-1, 6-1.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Cup Winners' Cup

Semi-finals, first leg

Chelsea v Real Mallorca (7.45)

Lokomotiv Moscow v Lazio (5.0)

Nationwide Conference

Hereford v Kingstonian (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Purfleet v Chesham (7.45). **League Cup: Semi-final, second leg:** Aldershot v Bromley. **First division:** Leyton Pennant v Staines. **Second division:** Thame Utd v Horsham.

ENDSLEIGH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Semi-final, second leg: Doncaster (2) v Morecambe (1) (7.45).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First division: Dungannon Swifts v Carrick (7.45)

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk v Shelbourne (7.45).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Sutton v Bridport.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Beaconsfield Sycob v Harringey, Somersett Ambury v Royston. **Challenge Trophy: Semi-final:** Potters Bar v Waltham Abbey.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chessington and Hook v Cove

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Wroxham v Lowestoft

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold Town v North Ferriby; Thackley v Garforth Town

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Glossop North End v St Helens Town.

CRICKET

University matches

11.30: first day of three

FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Lancashire

THE PARKS: Oxford University v Worcestershire.

GOLF

Charterhouse chase more glory in epic

THE Halford Hewitt Cup, to the *cognoscenti* just as much a part of spring as daffodils and the Boat Race, starts in Kent today, maintaining a tradition that celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

The competition, "the Hewitt" to its intimates, is a knockout foursomes competition between 640 members of the Public Schools Golfing Society. On Sunday afternoon, the winners will be hailed by their peers — and they will merit the accolade, for theirs will be a victory hard won. They will have played six rounds of matchplay golf in fewer than 96 hours; no wonder it is regarded as one of the toughest tournaments in amateur golf.

The format is simple — ten players per team, five foursomes over 18 holes — but the discrepancy in handicaps will be wide. There will be teams playing at Royal Cinque Ports and Royal St George's with combined handicaps in excess of 100 and others with a total of less than ten.

The holders are Charterhouse, who beat Tonbridge 3-2 last year. Both teams will be strong again, as will Shrewsbury and Malvern.

Changes to Augusta National bring big hitters to the fore



Pointing the way: Woods, already a champion, passes the time with Garcia, one for the future, during practice for the Masters at Augusta National

Woods favoured in the long run

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA

THE 63rd Masters begins this morning with animated talk of golf's new rivalry. Welcome to the dawning of an era in which Tiger Woods and David Duval will battle it out around the world as Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus did in the early Sixties and then Nicklaus and Tom Watson did in the Seventies and Eighties.

Will Mark O'Meara, the champion, help either Woods or Duval into the winner's green jacket on Sunday evening, so promising that we will be enthralled for the coming years by the derring-do of Duval, so cerebral and low-key off the course and so thunderous on it, and Woods's insouciant power?

Such a view needs a ring of authenticity to underscore it. It does not come from Jack Nicklaus, whose absence from the Masters was likened by Greg Norman to "your wife losing the diamond out of her wedding ring". Nicklaus has played in every Masters since 1959, when he was an amateur, but he misses the event this year because he has not recovered fully after having a ceramic hip fitted three months ago.

"I think the reason Arnold and I became a rivalry was because Arnold was winning most of the major championships and then I came along and won my first major by beating Arnold in a play-off and then came back in 1963 and won the Masters. So, all of a sudden, it was two fellows winning major championships against each other."

This is hardly the case with Woods, who has won one major championship — the Masters in 1997 — and Duval, who has won 11 of his past 34 events but not yet a major. "That doesn't mean they aren't the two best players in the world, because I think they are," Nicklaus said, "but if you want to create a rivalry, wait until one wins the Masters and another wins the US Open. Then you've got a rivalry."

Furthermore, raising Duval and Woods to a status far above their rivals seems to be ignoring Ernie Els, who has won twice as many major championships as Woods and Duval combined and is a legitimate member of the group of great players under 30. It also overlooks Vijay Singh, who



holds the US PGA title and so could win two major championships in a row if he were to triumph this week, Davis Love III, who has finished in the top ten here three times in the Nineties, and Lee Westwood, whose form was impressive in Jacksonville two weeks ago.

For years now, Europe's challenge has been small in numbers but large in impact, Europeans having won ten of the past 19 Masters. Oddly, this year, when a record 18 members of the European Tour have been invited to compete at the Masters, Europe's challenge seems weaker than ever.

The glorious exception is Sergio García, 19, the precociously talented Spaniard who is competing in his 27th professional tournament. García, coached and guided by Severiano Ballesteros and José María Olazábal, is a good bet to be the first Amateur champion since Peter McEvoy in 1978 to play all four rounds.

There is speculation as to when García will turn professional and although the informed guess is at the Spanish Open in two weeks, it is not written in stone.

Colin Montgomerie has always firmly held the view that he cannot play Augusta, that a course with such wide fairways does not reward his accuracy from the tee or his inclination to hit a high fade. Funny, that. It didn't seem to stop Nicklaus from winning six times here.

If, as Nicklaus said, it is too soon to be talking of a Duval and Woods rivalry, it is not too soon to suggest that Duval may be too emotionally spent to win his third event in succession, while Woods, who is close to his best, can triumph.

The changes to the course, lengthening the 2nd and 17th holes and planting 35ft pine trees on the right of the 15th, can only help Woods and the doubling of the length of some of the rough should hardly affect him. With his enormous length, he can get nearer to the 2nd green in two than most and so position himself better to pitch close. "Everything they have done has made it better for the long hitter," Love said. "The more difficult it is always gives the advantage to the long hitter."

The Masters has been won more in the Nineties by a golfer of finesse — Faldo (1990 and 1996), Olazábal (1994), Crenshaw (1995), O'Meara (1998) — than one of length — Woosnam (1991), Couples (1992) and Woods (1997). The changes this year suggest that it will be a big hitter who will wear the green jacket. If it is Woods, then, perhaps, we can talk of a rivalry.



LINKS
WEBSITE:
www.masters.org — official site
TELEVISION:
BBC2, 9pm, BBC1, 10.30pm

Strolling along the precipice of paradise

Lynne Truss feels the shivers down her spine in the technicolour dreamworld of Augusta National

A CBS man with a sculpted haircut and a nice blazer speaks to camera, from a position high up above the 18th green at Augusta National. Below us, this historic, emerald arena looks quite small — but then so was the Globe Theatre, as it happens; so is the *Mona Lisa*. He clears his throat and begins again. "As Mark O'Meara lined up his 105th putt of the tournament," he says earnestly (and identically) for the fifth time, "he realised that hanging in there had gotten him to the precipice of history." He pauses, to let the phrase "precipice of history" sink in and then resumes. "Now was the time to make a leap of faith" — *long pause* — "in himself."

Wow. It's all shiver-up-the-spine stuff here at Augusta National, a place whose reputation for exclusivity means that entrance to the course in Masters week is something like having a day-ticket to paradise — especially if your idea of paradise includes waving at Greg Norman or seeing for yourself how long Bernhard Langer's putter is.

People wandering around on practice days, and spotting Jack Nicklaus in a buggy, have an expression of pinch-me awe last seen on the teenage Richard Attenborough in the film *A Matter of Life and Death*, when he steps off the celestial escalator, sees the blonde with the big book and says, with eyes like saucers, "This is heaven, isn't it"?

It's got flowering bushes, you know. Famous for it. Full-blown azaleas all over the shop, in those garish pinks, cherries and mauves that always look like they've been applied afterwards by someone colour-blind with too much paint on the brush.

It's all immaculately tidy. It's quiet. It's "southern by the grace of God". And it's all very, very courteous and friendly, with people seriously calling you (but only where applicable) "Maam".

Today, the best players in the world *start* teeing off with their names announced and a round of applause. Or to put it another way, the precipice of history leads them to take the leap of faith — *long pause* — in luck, nerve and a following wind. Practice days are considerably more relaxed and the visitors take pictures of scoreboards and litter bins and grab Fred Couples's autograph before he can dodge out of the way.

Personally, I have an ambivalence about collecting autographs that means I hang back from the feeding frenzy and then, afterwards, feel a shameful urge to mug the people who've been successful. Which is my way of admitting that I let Couples go, when he was *this* close and now will never forgive myself.

> 'The azaleas look like they have been painted by someone colour-blind'

Out on the course, the pretty-in-pink is at odds with the weirdly surreal, as the huge greens, like Dali clocks, bend in the middle and flop at the edges and the wide, tilting fairways try to trick the unwary into believing that the course is easy — just before they lose orientation and fall over.

This year, momentously, there is a bit of rough (to coin a phrase), but most people have been pointing and saying, "Call that rough?", because at an inch and a half it doesn't exactly grab you round the ankles and rip holes in your jumper.

A reassuring amount of laughing and gooning takes place on practice days. On the 18th green, Fred Funk makes a putt and thrusts both arms up, O'Meara-fashion. On the 15th green, John Miller, a round-faced amateur from Indiana, lets one of his small, round-faced children make his putt for him (it goes in).

And at the short 16th, played over a small lake, Phil Mickelson and John Daly both rise to the crowd's trick-shot challenge and "skip" the ball across the water, so that it bounces four times and reaches the safety of the far bank, to general cheers and applause.

Who will look over that precipice of history when the time comes? Most people nominate the players they feel deserve to win — Norman, Couples, Daly — or the people who seem dead certs — Duval, Woods. So I'm plumping for Ernie Els, which isn't controversial; Sergio Garcia, because for a young European amateur to win it would be deliriously exciting; Phil Mickelson, because it's about time, quite honestly, that he stopped loafing about in major tournaments; and Jesper Parnevik, because everyone has a Scunthorpe United and Parnevik is mine.

TEE TIMES FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

United States unless stated
* denotes an amateur   all times BST

13.00 today: G Sarazen, B Nelson, S Snead (honorary starters)
13.15 today and 16.11 tomorrow: W Casper, G Brewer, D Ford
13.26 and 16.22: S Pate, S Hoch, R Estes
13.37 and 16.33: J Daly, G Hjertstedt (Swe), O Browne
13.48 and 16.44: A Lyle (GB), C Pavin, S Verplank
13.59 and 16.55: C Stadler, C Parry (Aus), R Mediate
14.10 and 17.06: R Floyd, C Montgomerie (GB), S Jones
14.21 and 17.17: J M Olazábal (Sp), W Glasson, B Chamblee
14.32 and 17.28: E Els (SA), D Love III, T Lehman
14.43 and 17.39: J Leonard, S Maruyama (Japan), J Huston
14.54 and 17.50: F Couples, S Elkington (Aus), S McCarron
15.05 and 18.01: B Faxon, J P Hayes, T Dodds (Nam)
15.16 and 18.12: T Watson, * M Kuchar, S Appleby (Aus)
15.27 and 18.23: I Woosnam (GB), P Sjoland (Swe), A Magee
15.38 and 18.34: T Woods, * S Garcia (Sp), T Herron
15.49 and 18.45: L Mize, C Franco (Par), J Sluman
16.00 and 18.56: T Aaron, M A Jiménez (Sp), C Parry
16.11 and 13.15: G Player (SA), * T Immelman (SA), S Stricker
16.22 and 13.26: B Crenshaw, * T McKnight, L Roberts
16.33 and 13.37: S Ballesteros (Sp), H Sutton, W Mayfair
16.44 and 13.48: J Maggert, V Singh (Fiji), P Stewart
16.55 and 13.59: N Faldo (GB), B Watts, J Durant
17.06 and 14.10: F Zoeller, M Ozaki (Japan), F Funk
17.17 and 14.21: A Palmer, * J Miller, W Wood
17.28 and 14.32: B Langer (Ger), M Calcavecchia, D Clarke (GB)
17.39 and 14.43: P Mickelson, G Norman (Aus), J Parnevik (Swe)
17.50 and 14.54: L Janzen, J Cook, F Lickliter
18.01 and 15.05: J Haas, W Andrade, T Bjorn (Den)
18.12 and 15.16: M O'Meara, * H Kuehne, L Westwood (GB)
18.23 and 15.27: D Duval, N Price (Zim), R Tway
18.34 and 15.38: C Coody, B Jobe, P-U Johansson (Swe)
18.45 and 15.49: M Brooks, S Cink, D Toms
18.56 and 16.00: P Azinger, J Furyk, G Day

TELEVISION CHOICE

An inspirational voyage

Simon's Journey
BBC1, 9.30pm

Simon Weston, OBE, the Welsh Guardsman who survived 46 per cent burns during the Falklands war, has been the subject of four previous BBC films. The latest brings us up-to-date and includes a summary of his story so far, from the excruciatingly painful treatment of his face and hands, through the years of depression, unemployment and heavy drinking, to the determination to leave home, find a new role and set up a charity, and the subsequent achievement of national fame as a fundraiser and public speaker. In the last film he returned to the Falklands and met the Argentine pilot whose bomb hit the *Sir Galahad* and caused Simon's injuries. Tonight we see the pilot, Carlos Cachón, accompanied by his wife, visiting the Westons at home. Another highlight of the film is Weston's fundraising participation in a New York marathon, sponsored by Paul Newman.

Simon Weston meets Paul Newman as part of his fundraising (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Making It: Habitat
BBC2, 7.30pm (not Scotland or Northern Ireland)

In an effort to regain its place at or near the head of the field of domestic interior design, the Habitat company recruited the designer Tom Dixon to give its product range a new look. At a London showcase for young designers, he discovers two graduates of Brighton University, Jacqui Caley and Rachael Roberts, and offers them short-term contracts on the basis of their exhibits. The real world proves both exhilarating and frustrating for the pair, although Dixon does seem to be pleased with what they turn out and takes them to Venice to see samples of Caley's designs being made..

NYPD Blue
Channel 4, 10pm

Detective Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) is in double jeopardy as he allows his concern over Simone (Jimmy Smits) to affect his judgment while investigating the murder of a 75-year-old widow. Simone is awaiting a heart transplant operation (the precinct officers have orders to report in any likely donors) and Sipowicz loses control when confronted with the mutilated body of a woman whose only relatives, her two sons, are apparently indifferent to her fate. When one of them attempts to hang himself after questioning, does Sipowicz resuscitate him just a little too slowly, in order to provide his best buddy with a new heart? **Tony Patrick**

Golf: The US Masters
BBC2, 9pm and BBC1, 10.30pm

Steve Ryder introduces coverage of the opening round of the 63rd Masters from Augusta, Georgia. Mark O'Meara ranks high among the favourites — ditto his fellow American and close friend Tiger Woods, the 1997 victor, who lost out as O'Meara triumphed 12 months ago. The British challenge is likely to be spearheaded by Colin Montgomerie — who ended 1998 as Europe's top golfer for the sixth successive year — and the ever-confident Lee Westwood. The drama will unravel beneath the towering pine trees and along the azalea-fringed fairways which make the Augusta National golf course one of the most spectacular in the world. We will have to wait until the early hours of Monday to see who prevails. **Louise Godfrey**

RADIO CHOICE

Mayoral Chains
Radio 4, 8pm

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Ken Livingstone and the other candidates to be Mayor of London ought to listen to this account, presented by Nigel Wrench, of the various attempts that have been made to run London properly down the centuries. Afterwards, they may feel like giving up the candidacy and moving on to something easier. As Wrench reports, in medieval times the monarch and the Lord Mayor fought each other to a standstill for control of the city, a battle that was of course as nothing compared with Margaret Thatcher versus Livingstone in the 1980s (Thatcher by a knockout). There is also the question of how the Mayor will get on with the Lord Mayor of (the City of) London, potentially a vexed relationship.

Bob Harris Country
Radio 2, 7pm

Radio 2's country music output has been undergoing a rethink and the result is this new series, presented by the man who made breathy delivery something of a fashion during his time fronting *The Old Grey Whistle Test*. The arrival of Harris as presenter is in fact the main change to the programme and it will be interesting to see how well his laid-back style meshes with the upfront, "aw-shucks" approach that is the hallmark of most country music folk. The first programme should have little difficulty attracting an audience for it has Emmylou Harris in the studio, fresh from her second album collaboration with Linda Ronstadt and Dolly Parton. Harris (Emmylou, not Bob) talks about her new solo album. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** The Global Update **10.10** John Peel **12.00** Andy Kershaw **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Bob Harris Country. See Choice **8.00** Paul Jones **9.00** Take It Easy: California Cool (3/6) **9.30** The News Huddlines. New series **10.00** The Alan Price Set (5/6) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Mo Dutta **3.00am** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Midday News **1.00pm** Ian Payne. Racing from Aintree: coverage of the **2.00**, **2.35**, **3.10** and **3.45** races **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Wembley, the Church of Football. New series. Four-part documentary charting the history of Wembley stadium **8.00** Inside Edge **9.00** Hoops **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** Late Night **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Justice With Jacobs **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.45** Cup Winner's Cup: Chelsea v Mallorca **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Breakfast Show Team **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Gary Davies **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Phil Kennedy

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** World Business Report **8.15** Insight **8.30** Assignment **9.00** World News **9.05** From Our Own Correspondent **9.20** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.35** The Works **10.00** World News **10.05** Network **10.20** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **10.50** Sports Round-Up **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Britain Today **11.45** World Business Report **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Assignment **1.00** World News **1.05** Outlook **1.45** Sports Round-Up **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** The Works **3.30** Meridian Books **4.00** World News **4.05** Sports Round-Up **4.15** Westway **4.30** The Greenfield Collection **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Insight **6.00** Newdesk **6.30** Record News **6.45** Sports Round-Up **7.00** World News **7.15** Britain Today **7.30** Assignment **8.00** World News **8.05** The Works **8.30** Coffee - A Hellish Brew **8.45** Off the Shelf: News Of A Kidnapping **9.00** Newshour **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report **10.20** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Books **11.00** World News **11.15** Sports Round-Up **11.30** Blues World **12.00** World News **12.05am** Outlook **12.45** Insight **1.00** The World Today **1.30** The Works **1.55** My Century **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Westway **2.45** Performance **3.00** The World Today **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.20** Sports Round-Up

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Michael Mappin's Easier Breakfast. A selection of rousing music to start the day **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents favourite music **2.00pm** Concerto. Bach (Concerto for 3 Violins in D major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Britten (The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra); Vaughan Williams (A London Symphony); Wagner (Siegfried Idyll), Tchaikovsky (Romeo and Juliet) **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto. Bach (Concerto for 3 Violins in D major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

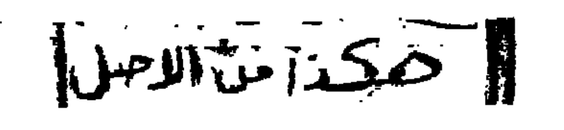
RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Nielsen (Overture: A Fantasy Journey to the Faroes); Antonio Soler (Fandango)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Bach (Chaconne (Partita No 2 in D minor, BWV1004); Beethoven (Variations and Fugue in E flat, Op 35, Eroica); Moeran (Symphony in G minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: John Tomlinson
11.00 Sound Stories: Cathedrals Richard Baker investigates the significance of Gloucester Cathedral
12.00 Composer of the Week: Britten (r)
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Joshua Rifkin, piano, plays preludes and fugues by Bach interspersed with some classic rags by Scott Joplin (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Symphony Orchestra. Rossini (Overture: The Italian Girl in Algiers); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor); Delius (On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring); Elgar (Symphony No 2 in E flat)
4.00 The Piano Return of the weekly series in which Piers Lane investigates the world of the piano past and present (r)
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty introduces music including Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 2), performed by Barry Douglas
7.30 Performance on 3: Endless Parade Introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville. Timothy Hugh, cello, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska. MacMillan (The Confession of Isobel Gowdie); Walton (Cello Concerto); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 6)
9.15 Postscript: Cinema Apocalyptica (4/5)
9.40 French Piano Music for Four Hands Faure (Dolly Suite, Op 56). Katia and Marielle Labeque, piano duet
10.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeaping introduces a selection of 18th-century French chamber music from the time of Louis XIV
11.00 Night Waves Paul Allen talks to Tony Harrison about using mythology to interpret modern life and writing dialogue in rhyming couplets
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton is joined by Campbell Burnap to review the latest CDs
12.00 Through the Night Includes Grainger (The Warriors. **12.25** Handel (Trio Sonata, Op 2 No 3) **12.35** Beethoven (Variations, Op 121a) **1.00** Monte-Carlo PO. Stravinsky (The Fairy's Kiss); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 4) **2.05** Spohr (Duo, Op 148) **2.20** Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20) **3.00** Karg-Elert (Nun danket alle Gott) **3.05** Vierne (Violin Sonata) **3.40** Dukas (La peri) **4.05** Bach (Violin Sonata No 3 in C, BWV1005) **4.30** Locatelli (Concerto grosso in E flat, Op 7 No 6) **4.45** Geminiani (Concerto grosso, Op 5 No 12) **5.00** Rossini (Overture: The Barber of Seville) **5.15** Vivaldi (Sonata, Op 1 No 12) **5.25** Somers (Suite, North Country) **5.40** Chopin (Barcarolle, Op 60) **5.55** Schubert (Songs)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Anna Hill
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
9.00 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Guests join Melvyn Bragg to consider ideas and events which have influenced the present age
9.30 Automatic for the People Alan Dein talks to people who once left their mark on vinyl by using auto-recording booths (3/4)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Just William — The 80th Anniversary (4/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour Sheila McClennon chats to Martine McCutcheon about her transition from soap star to singer
11.00 Crossing Continents An innovative scheme designed to improve relations between Estonia and Russia by having farmers foster deprived children from the city
11.30 My Uncle Freddie by Alex Ferguson. Comedy set on Tyneside charting the relationship between a boy and his uncle (4/6) (r)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations
1.00 The World at One with James Cox
1.30 Open Country Richard Uridge encounters the wildlife of Norfolk's waterlands (r)
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Woman of Ice An archaeologist working high in the Altai Mountains discovers a princess in the ice. Bryony Lavery's fantasy tale, starring Suzanna Hamilton and Matilda Ziegler (r)
3.00 Call You and Yours 0870 010 0444 Consumer justice programme, presented by Peter White
3.28 Radio 4 Appeal Professor Anthony Clare speaks on behalf of Obsessive Action (r)
3.30 What's Yours Is Mine Rory Cellan-Jones explores the role money plays in relationships (3/4) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 69 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 Nice Work Alison Mitchell investigates the changing world of work.
4.30 The Material World Trevor Phillips investigates occurrences of earthquakes in Britain
5.00 PM with Clare English and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 That Reminds Me Nicholas Parsons reminisces about his career in comedy (3/6)
7.00 The Archers The latest from Ambridge
7.15 Front Row Round-up of arts news
7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady E.M. Delafield's household journal. Broadcast earlier (r)
8.00 Mayoral Chain Nigel Wrench looks at the latest plans for governing London. See Choice
8.30 Midterm Blues Dennis Sewell assesses William Hague's success in transforming the Conservative party into a viable opposition
9.00 Leading Edge Geoff Watts reports on the British Psychology Society's annual conference in Belfast
9.30 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight With Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel Alan Howard reads part four of Robert Harris's thriller
11.00 Late Night on 4: Do Go On Griff Rhys Jones, Graeme Garden and Melanie Hudson join Ainsley Elliot in a satirical discussion of media absurdity, focusing on art (2/6)
11.30 Experimental Feature: Your Place or Mine? The true story of a rapist who apologised to his victim two months later (2/5) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Earthly Joys Kevin Whately reads part four of Philippa Gregory's novel
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe



هكذا من الأصل

Patching things up on the home front

There must, by now, be a flourishing out-of-town superstore where DIY-minded television producers can pick up all the materials they need to enable them to go home and build themselves their very own prime-time DIY show.

In **DIY SOS** (BBC1) — the first of yet another series, with yet another twist on the home improvement theme — Lowri Turner and Nick Knowles are part SAS-style decorators and part marriage guidance counsellors.

You see, the gimmick of this show is that the couple whose house is being renovated are on the brink of divorce owing to one partner's incompetence at DIY. By finally installing those flat-pack kitchen cupboards, or making the bedroom habitable, Lowri and Nick are saving marriages across Britain. It's God's work. The other gimmick is that viewers get to see clips of three houses showing calamitously executed DIY and can phone in to choose which of these DIY SOSs will be answered.

What is the point of this show? It's hard to tell. There's not enough DIY tips or design advice to make it instructional and it's hard to imagine TV viewers will respond to the telephone lines with the same zeal as they do to, say, the *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* telephone lines. Maybe it's just there to fill in part of the TV schedules that wasn't already filled with a home improvement show.

Next week's candidates include Lucy Wood, who is so cack-handed that she must think DIY stands for Demolish-It-Yourself; Margaret Knight, whose husband won't connect her shower; and Yvonne Ferguson, whose husband has built an extension to the house but hasn't yet got around to building a door into it. Why don't these cheapskates just call in a reputable builder to finish off the job properly?

Now, any TV producer looking for a more intrepid renovation challenge might care to take a look at **The Last Train** (ITV), a sci-fi drama which doesn't provoke the traditional reaction when watching sci-fi on TV of forcing you to watch through parted fingers (not because you're scared, obviously; but because you daren't look for fear that the next scene will be more preposterous than the last one).

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

In *The Last Train* the world has been ravaged by a meteorite. There's not a building or human being left standing. The only apparent survivors are a handful of men and women whose Sheffield-bound train carriage was shielded from the blast by being halfway through a railway tunnel when the meteorite struck.

"Our challenge this week," Lowri and Nick could say, "is to tidy up this awful mess. Now, God took six days to build the world from scratch. We're on a skimpier budget and tighter deadlines, so we're hoping to do it in five. To give us a helping hand we'll be using quick-drying emulsion instead of gloss, followed by a fast-drying, water-based varnish — just like we did on those bedroom cupboards we spruced up last week. Phone and tell us where you'd like us to start: if you'd like us to redecorate Europe first, press One. For Africa, press Two. If you would like us to make transforming Asia our priority, then press Three."

Did I mention that the meteorite was "the size of Birmingham"? (Doesn't that place just always spell trouble?) Well, so far — there are five more episodes to go — the train passengers have just melted out of their cryogenic frozen suspension to discover that there's no other sign of life apart from several savage dogs.

There's a policeman, a thief, a mother with two children, a pregnant woman, a woman from the Ministry of Defence, an elderly lady — all pretty ordinary folk, none of them scientists, who look out across the newly barren horizon and announce: "If I'm not mistaken, this devastation is the result of a meteorite the size of Birmingham crashing into Africa and unleashing tidal waves that have caused binomial dispractor ripples across the Earth's surface."

They are strangers to each other, suddenly forced to rely on each other to survive in a world plagued by acid rain, hungry dogs, and no convenient pizza delivery services.

The author Matthew Graham, who wrote two series of *This Life*, is obviously a fan of all those John Wyndham adaptations and *Quatermass* films. And he has adopted their trick of inflaming the eeriness of his story by planting it in familiar surroundings rather than on an unknown planet inhabited by creatures who all look like David Mellor.

Frankly, not all that much happens in this opening episode, which, paradoxically, makes it more seductive than if it had contained dozens of subplots and encounters with spooky Mellorites. As long as Lowri and Nick don't turn up in their overalls, then it looks very promising.

Watching just 40 minutes of American TV politics in **Battle For Congress** (BBC2) — the first of Ann Parisio's fascinating two-part documentary following last autumn's contest between the Republican and Democratic candidates to represent California's Santa Barbara district — made you grateful that British election campaigns are limited to three weeks and that commercial TV and radio stations are not crammed with contrived electioneering commercials by the rival candidates.

You got a clearer picture of what made the candidates tick and what they stood for from watching them relaxing at home than you did from their TV commercials. Of course, there is one way of using television to reveal politicians' true natures while simultaneously giving us handy tips on how to lay a laminate wood floor. But no doubt some TV producer is already working on "DIY MP". At any rate, let's hope not.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (65040)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (67175)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (9123330)
9.45 Style Challenge (r) (8867750)
10.1 The Vanessa Show (T) (5946953)
10.[illegible] News; Weather (T) (9175427)
11.[illegible] Change That (9152576)
11.[illegible] Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (9155663)
11.[illegible] News; Weather (T) (5191206)
12.[illegible] Going for a Song (2835773)
12.[illegible]pm Wipeout (9885458)
12.[illegible] The Weather Show (T) (76052595)
[illegible] One O'Clock News (T) (37934)
[illegible] Regional News; Weather (58122040)
[illegible] Neighbours Madge makes a new friend (T) (16380137)
[illegible]05 Ironside An attorney suffering from amnesia turns to the Chief for help (r) (1278595)
[illegible]55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (2237750)
[illegible]25 Children's BBC: Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch (8674934) **3.45** Chucklewood Critters (2661972) **4.10** Alvin and the Chipmunks (1415156) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (5978446) **4.35** Goosebumps (7679779) **5.00** Newsround (5601576) **5.10** Miami 7 (2462175)
5.33 Rewind (T) (492663)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (811408)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (427)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (779)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show, putting some of the biggest names on the high street under the spotlight (T) (2576)
7.30 EastEnders Ian catches Martin burgling his house (T) (663)
8.00 Harbour Lights The Blades salvage a businessman's cargo of vintage Scotch, leading to a highly charged game of cat and mouse. Meanwhile, Jane's ex-boyfriend makes an unscheduled appearance (T) (17156)
8.50 Points of View Viewers' opinions of the week's programmes (T) (905361)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8555)
9.30 CHOICE **Simon's Journey** Update on the Falklands war veteran Simon Weston (T) (77205)
10.30 CHOICE **Golf: The US Masters** Action from Augusta (20175)



Eddie Kidd, the former motorcycle stunt-rider (11.30pm)

11.30 Snapshot: Eddie Kidd Profile of the former daredevil stunt-rider as he tries to get back on his feet following the first serious accident of his career — which left him brain-damaged and in a wheelchair (T) (23243)
12.00 The Neon Empire (TVM 1989) FILM Mob boss Ray Sharkey fulfils his dream of opening a casino in 1940s Las Vegas. With Martin Landau and Gary Busey. Directed by Larry Peerce (T) (810731)
1.50am Weather (2327915)
1.55 BBC News 24 (54960248)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Polka Dot Shorts (5539392) **7.10** The Silver Brumby (9095446) **7.35** Top Cat (8427682) **7.55** Bots Master (8438798) **8.20** Buried Treasure (8143069) **8.40** Blue Peter (9310175) **9.10** Goober and the Ghost Chasers (7111576) **9.35** Student Bodies (8876408) **10.00** Teletubbies (25601) **10.30** FILM: Flipper (36446) **12.00** Wildlife Showcase (70750) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (93214) **1.00** Wishing (38364717)
1.10 The Leisure Hour Tips on getting started in golf (r) (1966021)
2.10 Racing from Aintree Clare Balding and Richard Pitman introduce the **2.35** Martell Cup Chase, **3.10** Sandeman Maghull Novice Chase, **3.45** Martell Foxhunters Chase and the **4.20** Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle (83847088)
4.55 Esther (T) (9449311)
5.30 Whose House? (156)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Quark is chosen to succeed Nagus Zek as leader of the Ferengi (r) (T) (740798)
6.45 Buffy the Vampire Slayer New series. The Master's remains go missing, and the gang get embroiled in sinister plans for his resurrection (T) (151175)
7.30 CHOICE **Making It** The story of two talented design students from Brighton University who were spotted by Habitat (T) (205)
8.00 Ray Mears's World of Survival Ray visits the eastern shore of Lake Eyasi in Tanzania (r) (T) (9866)
8.30 Top Gear Tiff Needell test-drives the Jaguar XK180 and Quentin Willson presents the annual survey of motorists driving three-year-old cars (T) (1601)



Mark O'Meara, the defending US Masters champion (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Golf: The US Masters** Steve Rider presents five first-round coverage from the pine-lined fairways of the Augusta National in Georgia (7866)
10.30 Newsnight Including news summary at 11.00 (T) (990934)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (440682)
11.20 Late Review The new Abba musical *Mamma Mia* (689601)
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show Bilko's nest-egg is threatened (r) (8053373)
12.25am Holiday Weather (2366354)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: A New Sun is Born — Part 1: The Coup **1.00** The North Sea: Managing the Common Pool **1.30** Power and Vision: The West and the Rest **2.00** Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision — French 1 **4.00** Teaching Film and Media: Film Education — An Ideal Husband: Text to Text **4.30** Film Education: The Producer's Tale **5.00** Teacher Training: Planet Europe — Studying Abroad with Erasmus **5.15** Planet Europe: Making Friends **5.30** Go Higher. Why Go Into Higher Education? **5.45** Open University: Playing Safe **6.10** Living with Drought

HTV

5.30am ITV Morning News (31430)
6.00 GMTV (2066040)
9.25 CITV: Tiny Toons (7136885) **9.50** The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor (8873311) **10.20** Bugs Bunny (7439088)
10.30 ITV News Headlines (T) (8821601)
10.35 HTV News (T) (8820972)
10.40 The Bears and I (1974) FILM Disney drama, starring Patrick Wayne as an Army veteran who decides to set up home near an Indian reservation. Directed by Bernard McEveety (T) (31806953)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7289663)
12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (2810717)
12.55 Shortland Street (1979595)
1.30 Lie Detector (T) (16379021)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5244779)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2233934)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5934330)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5933601)
3.20 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (5921866) **3.30** The Adventures of Dawdle (5788972) **3.40** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (4294595) **3.50** Lavender Castle (5799088) **4.05** Hey Arnold! (7240311) **4.30** Children's Ward (330)
5.00 Lie Detector (r) (T) (7408)
5.30 WEST: Pleasure Guide (T) (682)
5.30 WALES: Crazy Creatures (T) (682)
5.58 HTV Weather (406866)
6.00 HTV News (T) (595)
6.26 HTV Crimestoppers (232232)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (175)
7.00 Emmerdale (T) (2412)
7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out with Judy Finnigan and the team (359)
7.30 WALES: Wales This Week Current affairs issues. Last in series (359)
8.00 The Bill Quinnan returns to duty for the first time (T) (1311)
9.00 The Last Train Harriet seeks help from an old acquaintance (T) (1175)



Current affairs with Martin Bashir and Trevor McDonald (10pm)

10.00 WEST: Tonight with Trevor McDonald New series. The veteran newscaster delves behind the headlines (T) (1934)
10.00 WALES: The Ferret New series. Consumer reports, with Chris Segar (75205)
10.30 WALES: The Sharp End New series. Political discussion (84953)
11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (319088)
11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (820791)
11.30 A Trip in the Cosmic Buggy The pub and club scene (T) (18311)
11.30 WALES: Tonight with Trevor McDonald See 10pm (T) (58885)
12.00 Public Morals (r) (54002)
12.30am The Jerry Springer Show (9442248)
1.15 Trainspotters (4/13) (342248)
2.15 Pop Down the Pub (19557)
2.45 Box Office America (4203002)
3.10 Cybernet Computer news (84668002)
3.40 Murder, She Wrote (2062151)
4.30 Coach (83030267)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (3570460)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
10.35-10.40am Central News (8820972)
12.20-12.30pm Central News (9407392)
12.55 Lie Detector (2895408)
1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4069224)
2.10-2.40 Echo Point (89032595)
3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (5933601)
5.30 Shortland Street (682)
6.00-6.30 Central News at Six (595)
11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (820791)
11.30-12.35 Wonderful You (443359)
1.20am Jenny (6490593)
1.50 Pop Down the Pub (4057083)
2.15-3.10 T in the Park (7458915)
3.35 The Making of Hard Rain (44096267)
4.05 Central Jobfinder '99 (8591422)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (9734606)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **10.35am-10.40 Westcountry News** (T) (8820972) **12.15pm Westcountry News** (T) (7289663) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (9415311) **12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live** (T) (2895408) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4069224) **2.10-2.40 Lie Detector** (T2348476) **5.30 Dig It with Den** (682) **6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live;** Weather (T) (595) **11.20-11.30 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (820791) **11.30-12.30 Wonderful You** (5/7) (r) (T) (58885)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (7289663) **5.30 Ridgeriders** (4/4) (T) (682) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (595) **7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather** (169243) **11.20 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (820791) **11.30-12.30 Fitz** (T) (58885) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (36267)

ANGLIA

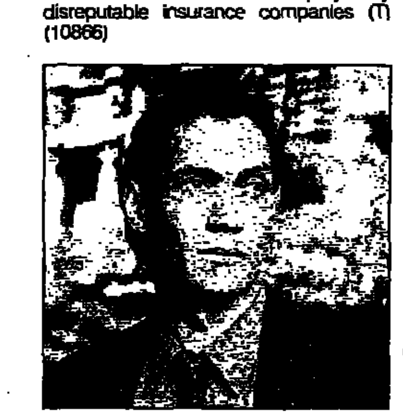
As HTV West except: **12.14pm Anglia Air Watch** (9427156) **12.15-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7289663) **5.25-6.00 About Anglia** (8343458) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (595) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (444408) **11.20 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (820791) **11.30 Crime Night** (149576) **11.45-12.00 The Ticket** (r) (177359)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (28192311) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (69069175) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast** (T) (92372866) **9.05 Saved by the Bell** (T) (92129682) **9.30 Sam and Max** (93420717) **10.00 Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension** (T) (83281885) **10.30 CatDog** (T) (39071885) **10.45 Boy Meets World** (T) (44771507) **11.15 Moesha** (T) (51426430) **11.45 The Bigger Breakfast** (99336205) **12.00 Dawson's Creek** (T) (93403040) **1.00pm Planed Plant,** (T) (69039934) **1.30 FILM: The Vicious Circle** (T) (21118717) **3.00 Doors to Manual** (5/6) (T) (41830175) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (99452088) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (99431595) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (99437779) **5.00 Planed Plant** (41802392) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (99451359) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (49985779) **6.10 Heno** (T) (39766224) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (41822156) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (99438408) **8.00 Slaymaker** (T) (41808576) **8.30 Pam Fi Duw?** (T) (41810311) **9.00 i dot** (27559779) **10.00 Father Ted** (T) (51276224) **10.35 Friends** (T) (81268427) **11.05 The 11 O'Clock Show** (85806330) **11.35 King of the Hill** (T) (67403359) **12.05am Secrets of the Circus** (T) (15415354) **12.35 Prey** (T) (86000373) **1.30 Dispatches** (T) (12554286) **2.05 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (5179779)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (50685)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (T) (3380446)
9.05 Saved by the Bell (7114663)
9.30 Sam and Max (29514)
10.00 Eerie Indiana: The Other Dimension (27069)
10.30 Catdog (3157392)
10.45 Boy Meets World (938243)
11.15 Moesha (935156)
11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (2406040)
12.00 Sesame Street (T) (39066)
12.30pm Bewitched (T) (23330)
1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (53972)
1.30 The Three Stooges (r) (95346137)
1.50 Sahara (1943) FILM An American tank sergeant gets isolated during the retreat from El Alamein, and proceeds to harass the pursuing Nazis. Second World War drama, with Humphrey Bogart. Directed by Zoltan Korda (T) (21717311)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (953)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (208)
4.30 Countdown (T) (7696446)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9441779)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (224)
6.00 Friends (r) (T) (137)
6.30 Hollyoaks Ruth confides in Jas (T) (717)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (753935)
7.55 Dovetales The experiences of a Protestant woman who was raised in the mainly Catholic town of Newry (7/8) (T) (936137)
8.00 Designs on Your Bra Richard Seymour and Dick Powell accept the challenge to find radical design alternatives to familiar items, beginning with a look at that the bra (1/3) (r) (T) (9953)
9.00 Secrets of the Circus This powerful documentary searches for examples of neglect within the animal-care industry (r) (T) (1205)
9.30 Dispatches Reporter Joe Layburn reveals some of the tactics employed by disreputable insurance companies (T) (10866)



Jimmy Smits stars as Detective Bobby Simone (10pm)

10.00 CHOICE **NYPD Blue** A donor heart becomes available for Bobby, while Andy breaks down in the washroom (T) (9576)
11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (6750)
11.30 Ally McBeal (r) (T) (56427)
12.30am 4 Later Introduction (6755915)
1.25 Vids (9640016)
1.55 Late Toon: Guy's Dog (1926642)
2.10 NYPD Blue (r) (T) (2339731)
3.00 St Elsewhere (r) (3769828)
3.50 The Hurricane (1937) FILM Blustery drama about the inhabitants of a South Pacific island shortly before a cataclysmic storm destroys their homes. Dorothy Lamour and C. Aubrey Smith star. Directed by John Ford (680644)
5.35 How We Used to Live: Britons at War (2987118)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headline round-up (5927601)
7.00 WideWorld Part five. Maggie Philbin looks at science in the 17th century (r) (T) (2884717)
7.30 Milkshake! (2672175)
7.35 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4003088)
8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (r) (8876021)
8.30 Witchworld (r), 5 News Update (8875392)
9.00 Fame and Fortune (r) (T) (4747717)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (3205137)
9.35 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6895040)
10.25 Sunset Beach Antonio is trapped (T) (4288514)
11.15 Leeza (r) (3969427)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (8886408)
12.30pm Family Affairs Gabby has a visitor (r) (T); 5 News Update (3237327)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Eric gives Ridge a friendly warning (T) (2883088)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment show, presented by the outspoken comedienne (r); 5 News Update (4687868)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (2187205)
2.30 Good Afternoon An hour of leisure, lifestyle and documentary, featuring real-life soap Liverpool Mums, Rob Butler's word game Cryptogram and Selling the Family Silver; 5 News Update (8770175)
3.30 The Oregon Trail (1975) FILM Action adventure about a family who pack up their belongings and set off on a 2,000-mile trek to the beautiful Willamette Valley. Rod Taylor and Douglas V Fowley star. Directed by Boris Sagal (2947663)
5.20 5 News (59295069)
5.30 100 Per Cent (6174972)
6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories, including First on Five (T) (6171885)
6.30 Family Affairs Gabby receives a hefty credit-card bill (T) (6162137)
7.00 Knight Rider Part one. The head of a computer corporation hires Michael to unmask the treacherous employee leaking his closely guarded business secrets to a rival. Spy-fi drama, starring David Hasselhoff (T) (2181021)
7.30 Cup Winners' Cup Chelsea v Real Mallorca (Kick-off 7.45pm). Steve Scott presents all the action from the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final first-leg at Stamford Bridge (T) (7710576)
10.00 Marked for Death (1990) FILM Steven Seagal stars as a former narcotics agent who takes on a gang of Jamaican drug dealers terrorising Chicago. Action thriller, with Basil Wallace. Directed by Dwight H. Little; 5 News Update (6986595)
11.50 Red Shoe Diaries A female bounty hunter trails a thief (8058205)
12.25am The Pepsi Chart With Martine McCutcheon (6865286)
12.55 National Hockey League (50622731)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6961151)

SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

• For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (78205) **7.30** Grimmy (80040) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (11021) **8.30** Godzilla (10392) **9.00** Pokemon (34972) **9.30** The Simpsons (52866) **10.00** Shadow Raiders (67601) **10.30** Xena (14972) **11.30** Legend of the Hidden City (883591) **12.00** Tarzan (75717) **1.00pm** Mad About You (77576) **1.30** Jeopardy (55953) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (68330) **3.00** Jenny Jones (80176) **4.00** Pokemon (2662) **4.30** Shadow Raiders (8866) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6175) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (9359) **6.30** Dream Team (3511) **7.00** The Simpsons (4576) **7.30** The Simpsons (9595) **8.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (3224) **8.30** World's Weirdest TV (2359) **9.00** Friends (65365) **9.30** ER (26595) **10.30** Veronica's Closet (31925) **11.00** Dream Team (60311) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (16408) **12.30am** Law and Order (93625) **1.30** Long Play (4734609)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)
The Devil's Advocate (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
The Rainmaker (1998)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
Anastasia (1997)
Sphere (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Mousehunt (1997)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Amy (1981) (79553) **8.00 Fly Away Home (1996)** (57224) **10.00 It Takes Two (1995)** (56040) **12.00 In Like Flynn (1985)** (70175) **2.00pm Amy (1981)** (80021) **4.00 Fly Away Home (1996)** (9021) **6.00 It Takes Two (1995)** (34585) **8.00** Hollywood Buzz (8934) **8.30 Il Postino (1995)** (34089934) **10.20 Jerry Maguire (1996)** (22382427) **12.40am A Time to Kill (1996)** (22940199) **3.10 Children of a Lesser God (1986)** (73727575)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.40am Rockford Files: If the Frame Fits (1996) (4222330) **7.10 Murder, She Wrote: South By Southwest (1997)** (80133682) **9.00 Behind the Waterfall (1995)** (79446) **11.00 Bigfoot: The Unforgettable Encounter (1994)** (28494) **1.00 Murder, She Wrote: South By Southwest (1997)** (40934) **3.00 Behind the Waterfall (1995)** (10224) **5.00 Bigfoot: The Unforgettable Encounter (1994)** (37069) **7.00 Rockford Files: I Still Love LA (1995)** (83137) **9.00 Runnin' Home (1998)** (15359) **11.00 Bound (1996)** (789446) **12.50am Nemesis (1992)** (204441) **2.25 Murphy's Romance (1985)** (715809) **4.15 Rockford Files: I Still Love LA (1995)** (32413557)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Bohemian Girl (1936) (7496069) **6.00 Tarzan's Revenge (1938)** (4706250) **8.00 The Hustler (1961)** (83742205) **10.15 Hud (1963)** (7796137) **12.05am** 100 Years, 100 Movies: Beyond the Law (3948635) **12.55 M*A*S*H (1970)** (7443625) **2.50 Rawhide (1950)** (97602644) **4.20 Son of Paleface (1952)** (6249189)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm The Chorus (1982) (5849309) **6.20 Traveller (1974)** (6997243) **7.40** Seven Shiny Coins (7095934) **8.00 Other People's Money (1991)** (33854595) **9.45** Rooftop (2252408) **10.00 Point Break (1991)** (25322663) **12.05am Darkness in Tallinn (1993)** (9162977) **1.40** In My Dreams (3913828) **1.50 Denise Calls Up (1995)** (4157199) **3.100** Close

TNT

9.00pm Cannery Row (1982) (70350345) **11.15 Diner (1982)** (97363205) **1.15am The Hunger (1983)** (71213828) **3.00 Cannery Row (1982)** (84753373)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** Boxing **10.30** Rugby League **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** Boxing **1.00** Rally Championship **1.30** European Tour Week, **2.00** Watersports **3.00** Total Sport **3.30** Rugby League **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Boxing **7.00** League Review **8.00** Spanish Football **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Boxing **11.30** Futbol Mundial **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** League Review **2.00** Futbol Mundial **2.30** Spanish Football **4.30** Trans World Sport **5.30** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing **8.15** Unbelievable Sports **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Golf Extra **12.00** Live International Cricket **8.00pm** Inside the PGA Tour **8.30** The Rugby Club **9.30** Baseball **11.30** Motor Racing **12.00** What a Weekend **12.30am** The Rugby Club **1.30** Trans World Sport **2.30** Motor Racing **3.00** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00am Wrestling **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Live Snooker **5.00** League Review **6.00** What A Weekend **6.30** Motor Racing **7.00** Live Snooker **10.00** What A Weekend **10.30** Trans World Sport

EUROSPORT

7.30am Curling **8.30** Football **10.30** Football **11.30** Tennis **12.00** Live Tennis **3.00pm** Live Cycling **4.00** Live Football **6.00** Trial Biking **6.30** Racing Line **7.00** Live Football **9.00** Boxing **9.30** Football **11.00** Racing Line **11.30** Ten-Pin Bowling

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Bugs **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Last of the Summer Wine **8.20** Dad's Army **9.00** The Young Ones **9.45** Bottom **10.25** Stark **11.30** The Bill **12.30am** Between the Lines **1.25** Dad's Army **2.00** The Man from Auntie **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** How's Your Father? **7.30** The Odd Couple **8.00** Families **8.30** Mind Your Langauge **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** Charlie's Angels **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Mind Your Language **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Charlie's Angels **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** Hale and Pace **10.30** The Comedians **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

The late Massimo Troisi stars in Michael Radford's Oscar-winning romantic drama *Il Postino* (Sky Premier, 8.30pm)

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Safe and Sound **8.30** An Inspector Calls **9.00** St Elsewhere **10.00** A Difficult Woman **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Art Attack **9.35** Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Ned's Newt **11.00** Smart Guy **11.30** Teen Angel **12.00** Boy Meets World **12.30pm** Brotherly Love **1.00** Dinosaurs **1.30** Amazing Animals **1.55** Winnie the Pooh **2.10** Bite Size **2.20** Bear **2.45** Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Knight in Camelot (1998)** **8.25** Honey I Shrunk the Kids **9.10** Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.20** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Silver Surfer **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.35** Mowgli, The New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **9.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.00** Goosebumps **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.40** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **10.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **11.00** Goosebumps **11.25** Dennis and Gnasher **11.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **12.00** Goosebumps **12.25pm** The Incredible Hulk **12.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **1.00** Goosebumps **1.25** Fantastic Four **1.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **2.00** Goosebumps **2.25** X-Men **2.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **3.00** Goosebumps **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps. Night of the Living Dummy III **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Brothers Flub **7.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters **8.00** Catdog **9.00** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **12.00** Moesha **1.00pm** Renford Rejects **2.00** Hey Arnold! **3.00** Rugrats **4.30** Sister Sister **5.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **9.00** Hang Time **10.00** Sweet Valley High **11.00** Saved By The Bell: The College Years **12.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **1.00** Backstreet Boys in Concert **2.30** Blast **3.00** City Guys **3.30** City Guys **4.00** Weird Science **4.30** Weird Science **5.00** In the House **5.30** In the House **6.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **6.30** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **7.00** Sugar's Real Life Stories **7.10** Bangs **7.30** USA High

BRAVO

8.00pm Martial Law **9.00** Cops **9.30** The Late Lounge **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Monkey Shines: An Experiment in Fear (1988)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** The Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Vixen (1968)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Caroline in the City **8.00** Mad About You **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** Spin City **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Garry Shandling's Show **1.30** Nurses **2.00** Almost Perfect **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Mork and Mindy **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00** The Twilight Zone **12.30pm** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** The Six Million Dollar Man **8.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **9.00** Babylon 5 **10.00 FILM: Memory Run (1994)** **11.40** Sci-Focus Special **12.00** Twin Peaks **1.00am FILM: Phantasm (1979)** **2.40** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Simply Painting **6.30** Instant Gardens **7.00** Garden Calendar **7.30** The Restoration Game **8.00** Australia's Strangest Home Improvements **8.30** The Close Guide **9.00** The Joy of Painting **9.30** Grassroots **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Antiques Trail **11.00** Hooked on Fishing with Paul Young **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Total Fishing with Matt Hayes **12.00** These Four Walls **12.30pm** Our House Down Under **1.00** The Furniture Guys **1.30** Home Savvy **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Two's Country

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** The Diceman **5.00** Best of British **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Amazonia **7.30** Flightline **8.00** Medical Detectives **8.30** Medical Detectives **9.00** Shadow of the Assassin **10.00** Forensic Detectives **11.00** The FBI Files **12.00** Engineering Disasters **1.00am** Flightline **1.30** The Diceman **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

11.30am Wild Ones **12.00** Hollywood Safari **1.00pm** Hunters **2.00** The Making of the Leopard Son **3.00** Man-Eating Tigers **4.00** Wild at Heart **4.30** Wild at Heart **5.00** Wildlife Rescue **5.30** Wildlife Rescue **6.00** Pet Rescue **7.00** Wildlife SOS **7.30** Wildlife SOS **8.00** Animal Doctor **9.00** Emergency Vets **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Emergency Vets **10.30** Emergency Vets **11.00** Emergency Vets **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Prince of Sloughis **7.30** Cold Water, Warm Blood **8.30** Animal Attraction **9.00** Extreme Earth: Volcanic Eruption **10.00** On the Edge: Return to Everest **11.00** On the Edge: Miracle at Sea **12.00** Shipwrecks

HISTORY

4.00pm Spies in the Sky **5.00** Battleships **6.00** Nero: Legend of a Monster **7.00** Playback. Eve Pollard **7.30** Bomb to the Beatles: I, Witness — Teenagers

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** Chef for a Day **10.30** Nancy Lam's Wok Wiz **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Ideal Home Cooks **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Food Factory **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** The Green Gourmet **2.00** Japantasy **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Simply Fish **3.45** More Simply Antony **4.00** Mridula's Indian Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.30** Animal Rescue **7.00** Professor Bubble **7.25** Caillou **7.30** Polka Dot Shorts **7.40** Johnson and Friends **7.50** Babaloos **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** My Zoo **8.30** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** Home and Away **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Jerry Springer Show **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Home and Away **5.10** Through the Keyhole **5.40** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Woman with a Past (1992)** **11.00** Sextasy!

ZEE TV

5.00am Hasya Te Na Ghar Vesya **5.30** Hit Thi Hit Hai **6.00** Hero Kal Aaj Aur **6.30** Awaz Nayee Andaz Wohi **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** Karoban Duniya **8.30** Tara **9.00** Zanjeeren **9.30** Zee Health Show **10.00** Urdu Drama **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Sharjah Cup 1999: England v Pakistan **3.00pm** It's My Choice **3.30** Sharjah Cup 1999: England v Pakistan **6.30** Cine Magic **8.00** News **8.30** Chahat Aur Nafrat **9.00** Hasratein **9.30** Blunt 2 **10.30** X-Zone **11.30** Emirates World of Cricket **12.00** News **12.30am** Zee Business Show **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parivarian **2.00 FILM: Hindi Movie: Saboot Mangta Hai Kacnoon** **4.30** An Hour With



CRICKET 48
England wilt as Ijaz whips up a desert storm

SPORT

GOLF 50
Woods and Duval ready to dispute mastery at Augusta



THURSDAY APRIL 8 1999

Sale teenager wings in for debut against Wales as Woodward gives youth its head

England to unleash the 'new Lomu'

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Steve Hanley took the well-worn path from Aspatria to Sale last September, his ambition was a first XV place with the Allied Dunbar Premiership club and perhaps, if things went well, an appearance for England Under-21. Instead, on Sunday, the raw-boned Cumbrian will step out for England at Wembley in the match against Wales that will conclude the Five Nations Championship and determine whether the millennium ends with an English grand slam.

It is a rise to stardom along the same trajectory taken by Jonathan Wilkinson last season. Hanley will be 20 in June, a month later than Wilkinson, who won his first cap as a replacement against Ireland in April last year at 18. Not for 31 years have England fielded a senior side including two teenagers — David Gay, of Bath, and Bryan West, of Loughborough Colleges, both in the back row.

France reshuffle.................47

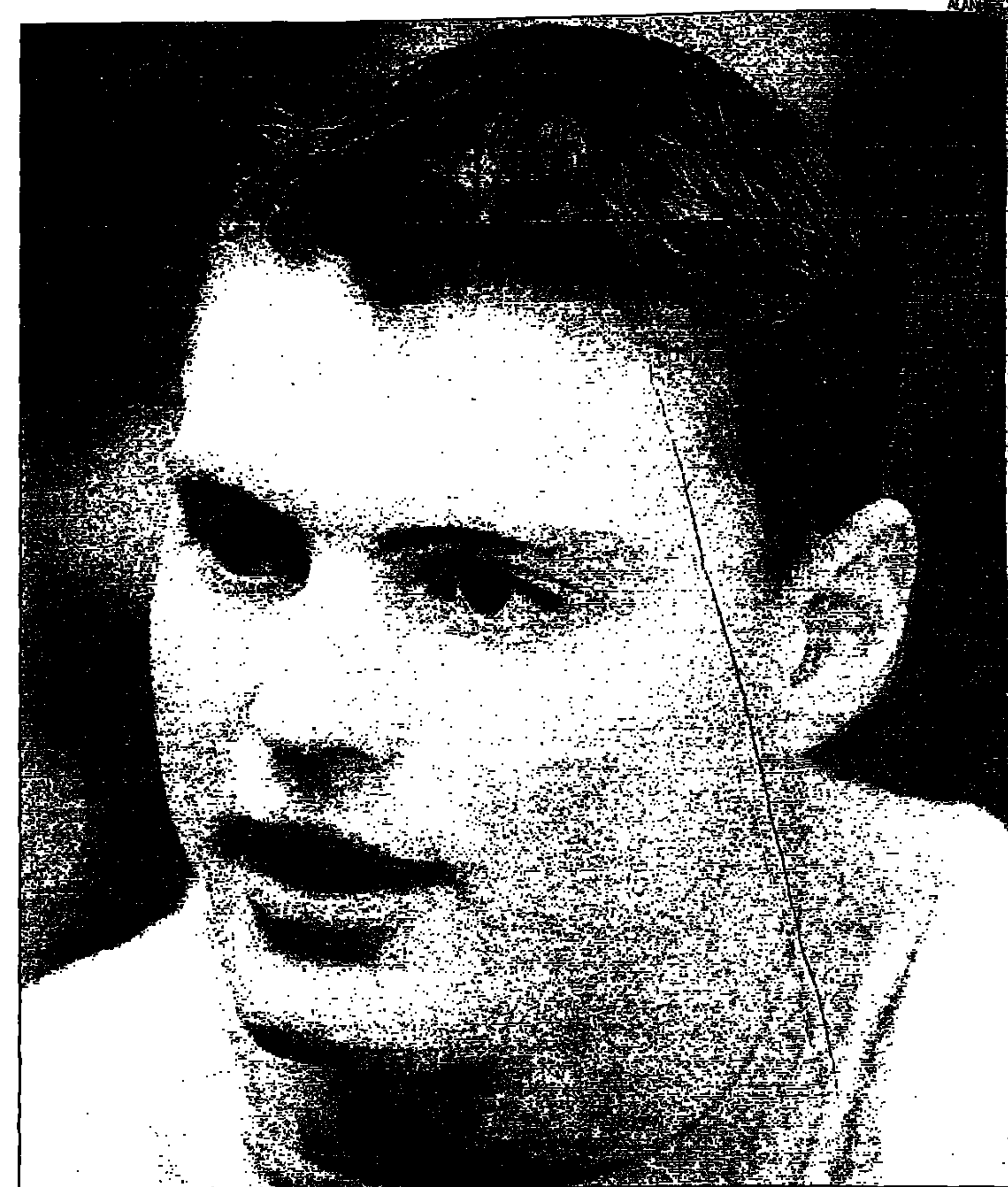
Hanley's selection on the left wing, one of three changes to the XV that started against France last month, is typical of Clive Woodward. The England coach has a banker in Tony Underwood, who may yet find a place in the squad if Jeremy Guscott's hamstring gives way before the weekend, but it is the promotion of youth that excites him in a way that is very un-English. Suspicion of youth has been an unfortunate characteristic of some past England managements.

Woodward first set eyes on Hanley in November at the insistence of John Mitchell, his assistant and then director of rugby at Sale. Hanley, 6ft 4in and 16st, arrived from Aspatria as an outside centre, which is where Mitchell believes that he may yet play. Even then, Wigan had expressed an interest in him playing rugby league, but the Hanleys are a union family: Melvyn, his father, is director of rugby at Aspatria.

Within weeks, the newcomer was scoring tries to the manner born, displaying strength, pace and, importantly, footballing skills. Hanley is not a head-down, bulldozing wing. He has a change of pace, a swerve, imagination and distributive skills that come from his experience in midfield. "It's a big decision to put a young guy in, especially for such a big game, but he's there on merit and I'm looking forward to seeing him play," Woodward said.

Age and inexperience have seldom weighed heavily with Woodward — witness the emergence of Matt Perry, Dan Luger and David Rees, the unfortunate Sale wing, whose place has now been taken, in effect, by his club-mate. "David has been brilliant, talking me through things, and I'm sure he'll be on the phone this week to help me out," Hanley said. In fact, Luger will move to Rees's place on the right wing, with Hanley playing on the left, the position that he occupies for Sale.

The move south tied in happily enough with Hanley's studies at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, where he is a second-year student of sports science. "The great thing about Steve is that he plays with a smile on his face," Mitchell said. "He's a good learner, too."



Pair of aces: Wilkinson, left, and Hanley will form England's first teenaged duo at senior level for 31 years when they take the field in the Five Nations Championship title decider at Wembley on Sunday

TEAMS

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath), D D Luger (Harlequins), J P Wilkinson (Newcastle Falcons), J C Guscott (Bath), S M Hanley (Sale); M J Catt (Bath), M J S Dawson (Northampton), J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), R A Hill (Saracens), N A Back (Leicester), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain). **Replacements:** N D Beal (Northampton), B-J Mather (Sale), A S Healey (Leicester), M E Corry (Leicester), G S Archer (Newcastle Falcons), V E Ubogu (Bath), N McCarthy (Gloucester)

ENGLAND A (v Wales A, at Wrexham, tomorrow): C Catling (Gloucester), S Brown (Richmond), F Waters (Wasps), P Mensah (Harlequins), J Williams (Harlequins); M Mapletoft (Gloucester), S Benton (Gloucester); T Woodman (Gloucester), M Regan (Bath), D Crompton (Richmond), R Fidler (Gloucester), N Cornwell (Gloucester), S Ojomoh (Gloucester), R Pool-Jones (Stade Français), A Diprose (Saracens, captain). **Replacements:** N Walshe (Harlequins), A King (Wasps), M Shaw (Newcastle Falcons), G Chuter (Saracens), W Green (Wasps), S Shaw (Wasps), P Volley (Wasps).

He learnt quickly enough to win a place in the England A side that played Scotland and Ireland, only to suffer a partial dislocation of the shoulder in Dublin when he was in contention for a senior place against France. He trained with England during the week leading up to that match and heard on Tuesday that he would win his first cap.

"Now I wake up in the morning and find it hard to believe what's happened," Hanley said. "I hope nerves won't have a negative effect on my game. I love union, I have done since I was a kid, and although the offer from Wigan was tempting, the dream was always to play for England."

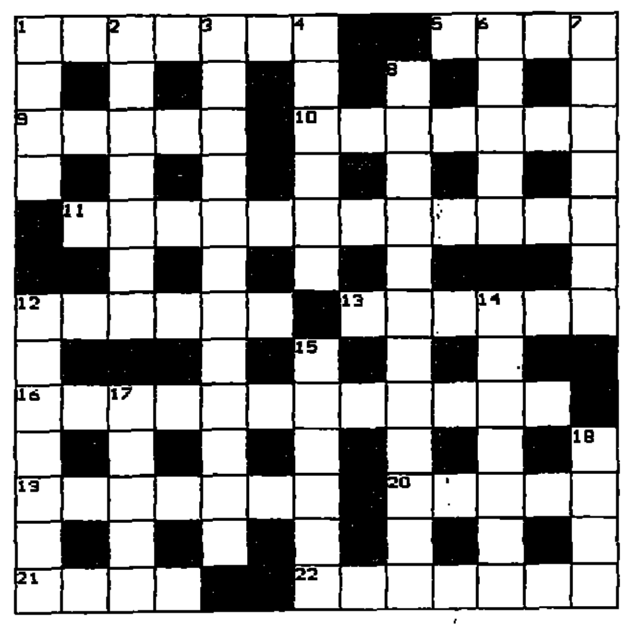
Inevitably, Hanley will be compared to Jonah Lomu because of his physique and Mitchell will remind him that Lomu's first outings with the All Blacks, as a teenager against France in 1994, did not go so well. Hanley's prospects are better. He is part of a settled side, playing effective rugby with no great expectancy from the public, though on the horizon is the prize of a place in the England World Cup squad in the autumn.

Hanley will also find himself up against a player he knows well — Shane Howarth, the Sale fly half, who wears the No 15 jersey for Wales. He has learnt much from Howarth's experience, but will relish the chance of taking his club colleague on, ball in hand. He will also benefit from the presence at centre of Guscott, whose strained hamstring will be monitored throughout the week, though Woodward is confident that he will play.

Otherwise England's only amendment to the side that started against France is at scrum half, where Matt Dawson takes over from the injured Kyran Bracken. Austin Healey returns to the bench, his eight-week suspension ending on Saturday. It was a decision that Woodward took with ease. "It didn't cross my mind to extend his sentence," he said. "He's served his time, he's fresh, he's fit, he's been around the squad and knows what's going on."

□ Phil Vickery, the former England tight-head prop, starts his first match for Gloucester since October when he plays in the final of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup against Bedford at Northampton tomorrow after recovering from a neck injury.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1686

ACROSS
1 Speak with impediment (7)
5 Having footwear (4)
9 Boring paperwork (5)
10 Large, smooth stone (7)
11 Its artist his own subject (4-8)
12 First principles: back to them, for the ignorant (6)
13 Wanting to sit on eggs (6)
16 One not extinct after all (6.6)
19 Concern, necessitate (7)
20 Triatomic oxygen (5)
21 Open-air pool (4)
22 Bridge bid (4-3); remove: obtain (licence) (4.3)

DOWN
1 Influence; totter (4)
2 Without purpose (7)
3 In very generous style (12)
4 One cut at formal opening (6)
6 Monster Hercules killed: tiny water creature (5)
7 Wizard of Oz girl (7)
8 Disorientation in (eg) new country (7.5)
12 Ox. college; two Scot. kings (7)
14 Colombia/Venezuela river (7)
15 Consequence (6)
17 Clear and bright (5)
18 One's grand family home (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1685
ACROSS: 1 Hatchet job 9 Fixture 10 Quipu 11 Thor 12 Ecliptic 14 Entail 15 Senlac 18 Ebenezer 20 Fuss 22 Optic 23 Imperil 24 Donkey-work
DOWN: 2 Ague 3 Clench 4 Enquired 5 Joist 6 Bouncy castle 7 Off the record 8 Exhort 13 Wiseacre 16 Louvre 17 Review 19 Eaten 21 Spar

Ban on cards for Keown

By Matt Dickinson

THE Arsenal defence, if not the team, remains on course for a record-breaking season, but it will have to man the barricades without Martin Keown for two of the side's final six FA Carling Premiership matches after a bizarre ruling by the Football Association yesterday.

The North London club had been hoping that the centre half's dismissal against Blackburn Rovers on Tuesday night would merit only a one-game ban because Keown's previous sending off this season, at Sheffield Wednesday, had been rescinded.

However, while the England defender did not serve any suspension for his Hillsborough red card, the FA's disciplinary department has ruled that the dismissal remains on the record books, so Keown must now miss two games. Lancaster Gate can work in mysterious ways.

Keown will be suspended for the trip to Middlesbrough in just over two weeks' time, followed by the home match against Derby County, when Steve Bould, 36, will attempt to maintain the back four's phenomenal record of 21 clean sheets in 32 league games of a season in which they have conceded just 13 goals — ten less than Chelsea, who have the next lowest tally.

It is almost as remarkable a figure as the number of red cards earned by Arsenal players, which now totals nine this season and 21 since Arsène Wenger took over. The Highbury manager remains unrepentant, however, and is not about to start disciplining his players.

"You could not say that on Tuesday night Martin Keown played a dirty game," he said, with some justification. "He made a mistake with his reaction for the second booking, but I believe half the red cards we have received are deserved and half not so. I am not especially proud of our disciplinary record, but I do not believe it is a problem."

With Dennis Bergkamp in the magnificent form that brought him the winning goal against Blackburn, Arsenal should not have too many problems reaching Wenger's target of 77 points for the season, a tally that he believes will be sufficient to retain the championship. Manchester United, a point ahead having played a game less, just have the edge.

Much may depend on the form of Leeds United, who must meet each of the three teams above them during the run-in. Chelsea face them at Stamford Bridge while Arsenal and Manchester United must travel to Elland Road. If David O'Leary's side can carry on the form that has brought them seven consecutive league victories, they will be confident of scrambling into a European Cup place themselves.

TITLE RUN-IN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	31	18	10	3	69	32	64
Arsenal	32	17	12	3	43	13	63
Chelsea	30	16	11	3	45	23	59
Leeds United	31	16	9	6	52	28	57

MANCHESTER UNITED: **April 17:** Sheff Wed (h) **April 25:** Leeds (a) **May 1:** Aston Villa (h) **May 5:** Liverpool (a) **May 9:** Middlesbrough (a). **May 12:** Blackburn (a) **May 16:** Tottenham (h)
ARSENAL: **April 19:** Wimbledon (h) **April 24:** Middlesbrough (a) **May 2:** Derby (h). **May 5:** Tottenham (a) **May 11:** Leeds (a) **May 16:** Aston Villa (h)
CHELSEA: **April 11:** Wimbledon (a) **April 14:** Middlesbrough (a) **April 18:** Leicester (h) **April 25:** Sheff Wed (a) **May 1:** Everton (h) **May 5:** Leeds (h). **May 10:** Tottenham (a) **May 16:** Derby (h)
LEEDS UNITED: **April 12:** Liverpool (h) **April 17:** Charlton (a) **April 25:** Manchester United (h) **May 1:** West Ham (a) **May 5:** Chelsea (a) **May 11:** Arsenal (h) **May 16:** Coventry (a)

Schumacher gears up for Brazil

By Our Sports Staff

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER claimed yesterday that the Ferraris will be a match for the lightning-fast McLarens in the Brazilian Grand Prix in São Paulo on Sunday. Eddie Irvine, Schumacher's team-mate, won the opening race of the season in Australia last month, but only after both McLaren cars had to retire.

Ferrari's celebrations were overshadowed by the 1½sec lead that the McLarens were building each lap on their Italian rivals at the start of the race. Schumacher said: "In Australia, we had a problem with grip, which was caused by a combination of the aerodynamics and the mechanicals.

"During the tests at Jeréz, we realised what was going wrong and since then the performances have improved. In Australia, we were at 95 per cent of the F399's potential, and now we're close to 100 per cent. The improvements have not involved major changes: we've just worked on things in a number of areas."

Schumacher also takes heart from the fact that neither Mika Hakkinen, the world champion, nor David Coulthard, his team-mate, managed to finish in Melbourne, unlike the two Ferraris.

"That's what counts," Schumacher said. "The McLarens were extremely fast, but after a certain point in the race neither of them were on the track. I feel confident about Brazil because I consider Melbourne to have been something separate.

"We will be up there near the front, I'm sure of that. I like Interlagos, I have won there twice before and the Ferrari is in fine health." Ferrari's superstitious fans have extra reason to hope for a victory by their leading driver. Seven of the past ten winners in Brazil have gone on to take the world championship at the end of the season — with Schumacher managing the feat in 1994 and 1995.

□ Stéphane Sarrazin, a test driver for the Prost team, will make his Formula One debut in Brazil, driving for Minardi. Luca Badoer, the first-choice Minardi driver, was injured during a test session last month and the team asked Alain Prost, the Prost team owner, if they could call on the young French driver.

Sarrazin said he was looking forward to the challenge. "I am very proud about the trust Alain Prost and the Minardi team have put in me," Sarrazin said. "I know it's not going to be easy."

